



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

Top Figures Comment on Madrid Talks, Prospects

'Ashrawi on Preparations for Next Step

JN0611204691 Amman Jordan Television Network
in English 2000 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference, by Maha al-Sha'ir in Amman on 6 November—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Sha'ir] Doctor, can you tell us how do you evaluate the whole process now that is over for the first phase?

[Ashrawi, laughing] It is not over. It is barely the beginning. I think we placed the Palestinian case squarely at the forefront of the agenda of the international community and the conference. We narrated the Palestinian story and we defended Palestinian rights, and we presented the Palestinian cause, and it gained tremendous support and warmth of reception. And, therefore, nowadays nobody...[changes thought] We reversed the myth of the land without the people, and we presented ourselves in all dimensions as a people in all our humanity, and politically, as well as intellectually and morally. And, I think we gained the moral high ground and people recognized our national rights and recognized the justness of our cause. So, what we have to do from now on...[changes thought]...we are starting the very difficult precise phase of political struggle, which is political confrontation at the negotiating level. We made the Israelis recognize an equality of stature. They tried to bring the occupation to the conference and to the negotiations and we brought the intifadah, morally, by insisting on dealing with them as equals, refusing racism and patronage, and articulating our own case for ourselves with dignity and with pride.

[Al-Sha'ir] What about the next phase, how are you preparing for that?

[Ashrawi] This is a difficult job. We have to prepare every single detail. We have to prepare strategies and alternative strategies. We have to coordinate with different sides, with the Jordanians primarily, and with the Arab countries. We also have to make sure that we are on a proper footing with the cosponsors, with the European countries, with the UN. And, we have to make our case in as many different ways, and with a specific attention to as many details and to as many arguments as possible.

Al-Husayni: 'Political' Solution Desired

JN0711105791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0650 GMT
7 Nov 91

[Text] Manama, 7 Nov (WAKH)—Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory council of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations with the Israelis, has said that the second round of negotiations with Israel will be held in two or three weeks.

In his first interview after the first stage of the Madrid conference negotiations granted to Bahraini AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ newspaper, Faysal al-Husayni said that in Madrid the Palestinians succeeded in forcing the Israelis to recognize them, and in imposing themselves on the political map.

He expressed his belief that the historical circumstances are appropriate for the restoration of Palestinian rights through negotiations, and that the United States can actually pressure Israel during the negotiations process. He said: The minimum for accepting a settlement with Israel is withdrawal and an end to occupation.

Faysal al-Husayni said that coordination between the Arab parties during the Madrid negotiations came late. He called for forming a permanent higher committee for coordination between the Arab parties. He also called for linking the normalization of relations Israel would like to have with the Arab world with resolving the Palestine question.

Replying to a question on his assessment of what took place in Madrid from the Palestinian viewpoint, Faysal al-Husayni said that what took place in Madrid crowns the struggle of our people against the oppressive statement that was made at the beginning of this century that Palestine is a land without people and must be given to a people without land.

He added: The Israelis tried to keep us away, bury us, and ignore us, yet in the end we sat with them in Madrid at the negotiations table and forced them to recognize us.

Al-Husayni said: We are now beginning a new stage that is not less difficult than the previous one, but we now begin on stronger ground.

Regarding his assessment of the U.S. position during the Madrid negotiations, and whether it is likely that the United States will in the future pressure Israel to accept Palestinian rights, Faysal al-Husayni said: Such U.S. pressure is very likely.

He said that the United States is interested in a stable Middle East. He also said that its main concern is not who will pay the price, but it now knows that there can be no peace without resolving the Palestine question. Consequently, it seeks to resolve the question, aware that there can be no solution without attaining Palestinian interests.

Replying to a question on his visualization of the future of the negotiations, and whether the Palestinian side believes it is possible to restore the Palestinian rights through these negotiations, Faysal al-Husayni said: It is at least possible to stop the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories. He expressed his belief that it is possible to restore the Palestinian rights through negotiations.

Al-Husayni said: We are not talking about a solution based on the historical right of the Palestinian people, nor do we seek a solution based on absolute justice or one based on attaining the full and comprehensive national aspirations of the Palestinian people. We are talking about a political solution, not a historical one.

because a historical solution from our viewpoint would be based on the fact that our country extends from the river to the sea. They too have an opinion on history.

Al-Husayni said. For this reason, we must put history aside and talk about politics. He said: We are required to find our people a place under the sun; that is, a part of the political map. Whoever succeeds to become part of the political map, will become part of the geographical map. Whoever imposes himself on politics, will impose himself on geography. Al-Husayni said: We succeeded in imposing ourselves politically, and we will succeed in imposing ourselves geographically.

Replying to a question on the formula of settlement the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations can accept, al-Husayni said: The minimum we accept is Israeli withdrawal and an end to occupation. He added that after withdrawal and an end to occupation we can accomplish something by ourselves; that is, the right to self-determination through elections and establishing a confederation.

Al-Husayni denied that there was disagreement between the Palestinian delegation and the Syrian delegation regarding beginning bilateral negotiations in Madrid. He said: On the contrary, Syria faced a problem regarding the way the meeting should be held and the Israeli conditions imposed on us all. We tried to assist in resolving it, and together we tried to reach a formula that would enable us to hold the meeting under conditions better than the original ones.

'Neutral' Talks Venue Preferred

LD0611135591 Rabat MAP in English 1210 GMT
6 Nov 91

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 6 (MAP)—Faysal al-Husayni, coordinator of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference Tuesday said the Palestinian delegation is against the holding of bilateral negotiations in the Middle East region and suggested instead that they be carried in a neutral state.

In an interview with Moroccan AL-'ITTIHAD AL-'ISHTIRAKI daily, Al-Husayni said Arab delegations are for the bilateral talks between Israeli and Arab delegations. Syria and Lebanon to continue in Madrid.

He also told the daily of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP) that the United States intends to work for the holding of talks in Washington, while Israel will persist in its intransigence requiring that talks be held alternately in Israel and in an Arab country.

If the involved sides, he went on, do not succeed in settling the site issue, the Madrid conference sponsors will interfere to propose that bilateral talks be held in Washington and multilateral talks in Moscow.

The Palestinian official also asserted Israel is looking for a pretext to torpedo the peace process by trying to impose extremely severe terms to compel Arabs to

withdraw from negotiations. He added Palestinian negotiations accepted concessions on issues of form but will make no concession on issues of content.

Israeli Border Venue 'Unacceptable'

TA0711081491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0505 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] The Arabs will reject a proposal to hold bilateral talks on Israel's borders with Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria, Samih Kan'an, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid talks, said today.

[Begin Kan'an recording] I believe it will not be approved because it is unacceptable to the Arab side, especially to the Palestinians. [end recording]

Kan'an is staying at the Regency Hotel in Amman, and he spoke to him via Solan Communications. East Jerusalem sources said last night that political committees have recently begun to be set up in the territories—perhaps replacing the popular committees which supervised the intifadah—to coordinate the preparations for the struggle for self-government in the territories. Kan'an stressed that the Palestinian delegation did not discuss that matter and that he does not know about such a development.

[Begin Kan'an recording] I have not heard that the Palestinians are preparing for self-government. We have so far not discussed it or negotiated it with Israel. We will see what happens in the talks scheduled to be held in two weeks. We will talk, and we are always ready for anything worked out with Israel on the matter. [end recording]

According to Kan'an, the Palestinian delegation now in Amman did not know that 'Arafat was in town, and it has no plans to meet with him or his aides. They will return tomorrow or Sunday to await a decision on the location of the talks to be held in two weeks. Kan'an said.

[Begin Kan'an recording] I think that we are all hopeful, and we have so far not lost hope. We went to Madrid and want to make peace. We are not disappointed. We want to go to the end of the road for peace. All my colleagues are hopeful that there will be peace, with no obstacles along the way, and we will continue. The main thing is that we continue toward peace. We want good things for the Palestinian people and for it to feel Israel really wants peace. We are still waiting for gestures from Israel to convince all the Palestinian people that Israel really wants peace. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 7 November carries a recorded telephone interview in English with Mamduh al-'Akir, another member of the Palestinian delegation now in Amman. Al-'Akir says that the bilateral talks should be held in "a neutral place." "We started in Madrid, we have to carry on in Madrid. What the Israeli negotiations are asking is to put the cart before the horse, because moving into the Middle East

and having it alternately between Tel Aviv and Arab capitals, this means we are pushing into normalization before even we start."

Sha'th—New Proposals Planned

TA0711101791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
7 Nov 91 pp A1, 4

[Report on a telephone interview with Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, in Cairo by Gay Bekhor on 6 November]

[Excerpt] "In their next meeting with the Israeli delegation, the Palestinian delegation intends to propose a series of measures that have never been raised before to build confidence between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

"Among other things, we would be ready to stop hurling rocks and firebombs at Israelis if Israel were to announce in return that it is willing to end oppressive measures, such as martial law in the territories, or free administrative detainees." These remarks were made to HA'ARETZ by Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, Dr. Nabil Sha'th.

"I call it a kind of truce," Sha'th said. He explained that in return for a settlement freeze, the Palestinians do not intend to offer to stop the intifadah but only the acts of violence, because "the intifadah is a national state of mind which protects the Palestinian nation."

Sha'th was in Madrid throughout the conference and was in constant contact with Palestinian delegation advisers Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi. After holding a series of extensive consultations with the Palestinian delegation members, he returned to Cairo yesterday.

"We intend to be as positive as possible and succeed in the negotiations," Sha'th said. "We have several priorities on which we are going to insist, such as an end to settlement. Israel has to accept this without any Palestinian reward because this is the basis for the entire process, based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338."

According to Sha'th, there are additional offers on the agenda—such as the Saudi offer to stop the Arab boycott against Israel—which will be made when settlement is stopped. "We must look at the wider scope of the negotiations," he said.

He avoided the question of whether the Palestinians will stop the negotiations if Syria stops the process with Israel. "We want the Syrians with us every step of the way. We are independent, but we would still like to see our Syrian and Lebanese brothers with us. You must know that we helped them come to the conference, and we will do so this time as well. The main thing is not to think in terms of quitting or getting out of the process."

According to Sha'th, the Palestinian delegation will press as much as it can for a short transitional stage of self-rule. "We, the Palestinians, must not waste time. That is why we will press to shorten the process as much as possible."

Sha'th said that the Jordanian and Palestinian teams have already agreed that when Palestinian issues are broached, all the members present will be Palestinians, except for a single Jordanian. The delegation will be headed by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi. In response to a question on whether the Palestinian delegation represents only the residents of the territories or the diaspora as well, he said: "I certainly see them as representing me. This is the delegation of the entire Palestinian nation." [passage omitted]

Nusaybah Notes 'Existing Realities'

TA0611170491 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic
4 Nov 91 p 14

[Interview with Dr. Sari Nusaybah, member of Advisory Council to Palestinian delegation in Madrid peace conference, by Ramzi Hakim; place and date not given]

[Text] [Hakim] What are your expectations for the Madrid peace conference?

[Nusaybah] Undoubtedly the conference by itself constitutes a turning point. It epitomizes the beginning of a new phase and enhances the chances and possibilities of finding a settlement in the region. Despite this, I personally do not see any great possibility for progress in the negotiations due to the intransigent Israeli positions of which we are aware. Hence, I look at the conference in its comprehensive meaning—as a catalyst for carrying out positive political changes, especially among average Israelis, resulting later in a new Israeli orientation enabling the two sides to reach a settlement.

[Hakim] So are you pessimistic at the possibility of bridging the gap between the Palestinian and Israeli positions under the current circumstances?

[Nusaybah] It is not a matter of pessimism or optimism. I deal with the existing realities. I believe that it is logical to expect a rigid and hardline Israeli position on all levels, whether the level of preparatory phases (stopping settlement and showing goodwill gestures, such as release of prisoners and detainees), or the level of bilateral talks to transfer authority to the Palestinians (the issues of security, water, and so forth), or the level of final status (Jerusalem, a state, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and so on). Thus, the Israeli position is engaging in this process in a way that is diametrically opposed to ours. The negotiations are so complex that they might break down at any minute.

[Hakim] Then you believe that here comes the average Israeli's role?

[Nusaybah] Apart from Arab and international pressure on Israel to force it to respect international legitimacy and UN resolutions, if the talks should stall it is possible that the Israeli Government would go back to the Israelis and announce new elections, for example, under the pretext that it is the people who must determine the course in a such a crucial issue. Hence, we are pinning hopes on the changes

that this conference might bring about in the Israeli people, resulting in the formation of another type of government with a real peaceful tendency and which can make the necessary concessions. Such a government can be formed even without resort to elections.

[Hakim] But we should not forget that it was the Likud which withdrew from the Sinai?

[Nusaybah] While hoping that this government will make the concessions for achieving peace, prior knowledge of the Likud's positions indicates that it is very difficult for Israel, represented by the current government, to make the required concessions.

[Hakim] But do you believe that Israel can enter into a confrontation with the United States and the world after sitting at the negotiations table?

[Nusaybah] I very much hope that the Israeli Government will submit to international legitimacy and UN resolutions and will withdraw from the territories occupied in 1967. This will make all of us very pleased. But the question is: If the Likud does not give in to the expected international and Arab pressure—not necessarily economic but political and moral pressure—will this mean that the conference has failed in achieving its goal? One should not look at things this way. In such a case, Shamir will be forced to go back to the Israeli voter. At that time this voter will face a new situation; that is, the presence of Palestinian and Arab negotiators who are waiting to continue the talks and achieve peace. This voter has to decide: Is he in favor of moving forward in a real peace process with territorial concessions, or does he want to adhere to the so-called "Greater Israel" principle, without peace?

[Hakim] Let us discuss your meetings with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Did you sense a change in the U.S. stance?

[Nusaybah] One should differentiate between two things and should not mix them up. First, U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. I don't think there is any fundamental change in content on this level. The United States has always affirmed that it supports Resolution 242, has declared that settlements are an obstacle to peace, and has called for the exchange of land for peace. These principles were also enunciated by former U.S. President Ronald Reagan. The new element is the will and the decision to attain these principles and the translation of this policy into a reality. We are observing now a keen resolution by the present U.S. Administration to implement this policy. This is something that should not be underestimated.

[Hakim] But the United States, for example, does not support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state?

[Nusaybah] The U.S. position does not rule out a confederation between the Palestinian entity, as they call it, and another side, meaning Jordan. The fact that the Palestinian is going into the conference with prior

knowledge of the U.S. position does not necessarily mean that he accepts this position. The main issue is the right to self-determination.

[Hakim] Does this mean that the Palestinians, too, do not rule out a confederation?

[Nusaybah] It is the people who will decide, but should the right to self-determination become conditional on confederation that would be dangerous. We must not accept this formulation during the negotiations. The best alternative is for confederation to be in conjunction with self-determination.

[Hakim] Nonetheless, this means that the Palestinians will accept confederation.

[Nusaybah] We might accept, but as I have said it is the people who will decide their destiny. This right should not be conditional on confederation. We are talking about an independent state in the political or sovereign sense. We realize, however, that such a state will not enjoy self-sufficiency from the economic aspect. Consequently, it will be necessary to establish ties and relations between the independent Palestinian state and other countries. Jordan is the favorite candidate for such a relationship because it maintains ties with the Palestinian state.

[Hakim] Also with Israel, for example?

[Nusaybah] I do not rule out relations with Israel, too, on certain levels—for example, issues relating to water and commerce. We do not want to establish a state surrounded by high fences that separate it from neighboring countries. We want to be part of the new economic order that will be forged in the region, but within the framework of a sovereign state, meaning that the authority of this independent state will rest with the Palestinian people, who possess the sovereignty and right to self-determination and who will shape this state.

[Hakim] Nevertheless, Washington opposes the establishment of an independent state. The Palestinians will have no alternative but to accept confederation with Jordan as a final solution.

[Nusaybah] I said that Washington does not exclude a confederation. We are demanding an independent Palestinian state. The shape of this state will be determined later. If Washington is in favor of a confederation it does not mean that we should support this view. We should, however, exploit this stance. Confederation means unity between two independent states.

Bakr: Arab Approach 'Moderate'

JN0611071891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
6 Nov 91 pp 1,2

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—The "moderate" presentation made by the Arabs, particularly the Palestinian delegation, at the Madrid peace conference might have won international

acclaim, but at the expense of the basic Palestinian and Arab legal and political rights, a leading Palestinian politician and legal expert argues.

"The Arabs, particularly the Palestinian delegation, have started from a minimal negotiating position that they can be trapped in," contended Ibrahim Bakr, a former member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, and an influential and outspoken lawyer on Jordanian and Palestinian politics.

While Israel started from a maximalist position—insisting that it has a historic and religious claim to all of the territories it controls—the Arabs indicated acceptance of the 1967 border and there was no explicit demands for the rights of the Palestinian refugees who were displaced as a result of the creation of Israel in 1947.

The Arab presentations did indeed positively influence international and Arab public opinions, but have provided some credence to claims by Arab and Palestinian opponents of the peace conference. But there is also growing concern and frustration among supporters of the peace talks that the Arab delegations have already limited their margin of maneuver at the more serious stages of the negotiations.

"Each party will have to adhere to its presentation (at the opening conference)," said Mr. Bakr, who has supported the Jordanian and Palestinian involvement in the peace conference.

Mr. Bakr charged that the Palestinian presentation amounted to a waiving of the right to return or compensation for the Palestinian refugees of 1948, a negotiating position "below the minimum level as provided in U.N. Security Council Resolution 242."

Mr. Bakr, who commands broad respect and great influence among all Palestinian and Jordanian trends, said the Arab delegations appeared "impotent" in front of Israel at the conference by failing to respond to "historic claims" made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to the land of Palestine.

"It was a shame for the Arab delegations from the Gulf to the Atlantic to appear in front of the media impotent before a so-called tiny state," Mr. Bakr said.

Although Mr. Bakr's statements implied a strong criticism of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which, despite its physical absence, is effectively directing the Palestinian delegation in Madrid, they also reflect resentment of the PLO leadership of the American terms for the peace negotiations.

Mr. Bakr expressed deep mistrust of the U.S. role as a sponsor of the conference while it remains committed to Israeli military superiority in the region and portrays it as a tiny vulnerable state.

"This 'tiny state' is the long arm of America and is heavily armed with hundreds of nuclear warheads. This

state is still the ally of the U.S., which has kept it militarily stronger than all Arab countries combined," Mr. Bakr said.

For the first time since the PLO authorised Palestinian participation in the peace conference Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said publicly that he was forced, under American pressure, to accept what he described "as humiliating Israeli terms."

"The Arabs and the Palestinians were forced to go to Madrid," Mr. 'Arafat told an international solidarity meeting with Palestinian rights held in Tunis Sunday night.

"We have gone to Madrid in accordance with terms dictated by the Israeli side and in turn [as published] imposed upon us by the sponsors of the conference," Mr. 'Arafat said.

The PLO leader's statements were not viewed as a criticism of the presentation made by the Palestinian delegation but rather as strong resentment with the terms of the peace conference, including, according to Palestinian officials, the concessions implied in the Palestinian delegation's presentation at the conference.

The other terms included the exclusion of a direct PLO involvement in the conference and the abandonment of the Palestinian preconditions, including an immediate halt to the building of Israeli settlements and the representation of East Jerusalem and an American recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination prior to the beginning of the talks.

According to available information, the Palestinian speech at the opening session had to take into consideration American demands that opposed the use of any conditions or any explicit reference to the Palestinian right to return as contained in the United Nations resolutions.

The speech, delivered by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, drew wide Palestinian admiration. It challenged the U.S. and Israelis' ground rules by asserting allegiance to the PLO—without referring to it by name—and commitment to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

But Mr. Bakr, who usually makes major contributions to Palestinian policy-making, said that the speech contained major and dangerous concessions that will limit the Palestinian negotiating position.

Mr. Bakr was specifically referring to the acceptance of Israel's pre-1967 borders, the approval of the American suggested interim period and the failure to claim the right for return of the Palestinian refugees of 1948.

"Our homeland has never ceased to exist in our minds and hearts. But it has to exist as a state on all of the territories occupied by Israel in the war of 1967, with Jerusalem, in the context of that city's special status and its non-exclusive character," Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi's statement constituted the most explicit Palestinian acceptance of Israel's 1967 borders. The Palestine National Council's (PNC) 1988 declaration of independence had tacitly accepted the pre-1967 borders by calling for a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Bakr argued—repeating a point that he had made in a memorandum to the PLO on the eve of the 1988 PNC—that the PLO then and the Palestinian delegation in Madrid now should have adhered to the borders outlined in the 1947 partition plan as contained in United Nations Resolution 181 for four reasons:

- Israel had not adhered to the boundaries of the partition plan and later occupied a considerable chunk of the land allocated by the plan to the Arab (Palestinian) state that was supposed to be created according to Resolution 181.
- Israel cannot avoid discussing the boundaries outlined in Resolution 181 since it was created and was provided international and legal legitimacy according to that resolution.
- Resolution 242 did not contain an international recognition or legitimacy of Israel's control of Palestinian lands that it took over in violation of Resolution 181.
- Israel occupies the Palestinian al-Himmah, a Palestinian resort near Syria, but considered it part of the Golan Heights. Thus by confining the Palestinian claim to the West Bank and Gaza Strip the Palestinians practically renounce the claim for al-Himmah, especially that Israel will refuse to renegotiate its status as part of occupied Syrian territories.

"Resolution 242 explicitly provides for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, including the West Bank, Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and also the Palestinian al-Himmah, which was occupied as part of the Golan Heights," Mr. Bakr said.

Israel is expected to refuse to compromise on the Palestinian al-Himmah, especially that whoever controls the strip of the land controls the al-Yarmuk River—an important score in the conflict over water resources between Israel and the Arabs.

Consequently, Mr. Bakr says, by accepting the interim period and the pre-1967 borders the Palestinians have accepted far less than provided by Resolution 242. In his speech Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi declared readiness to accept the interim period suggested by the Americans but stressed that the Palestinians will now allow the transitional period, during which there will be some form of autonomy, to be transformed into a permanent status.

Until 1988, when Jordan relinquished its responsibility for the Israeli-occupied West Bank leading to the declaration by the PLO of an independent Palestinian state, Palestinians regarded the acceptance of 242 as a major concession since the resolution does not address Palestinian national rights.

Mr. Bakr, who had in the past opposed Mr. 'Arafat's policies but had stood firmly in support of the PLO leadership since 1987, warned that by accepting the interim period and the American scenario the Palestinians are settling for far less than what was provided in the 1978 Camp David agreement between Israel and Egypt.

"There is (a plan) for phased withdrawal. This is less than Camp David," said Mr. Bakr.

In his speech Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi implied that the Palestinians were seeking amendments to the interim period but he did not reject outright the American scenario.

The American scenario involves autonomy rule followed after two years by the election of representatives to negotiate the final solution for the future of the occupied Arab lands. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, however, called for condensing the timeframe of the interim period "to respond to the dispossessed Palestinians' urgent need for sanctuary and to the occupied Palestinians' right to gain relief from oppression and to win recognition of their authentic will."

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi's statement clearly meant that the Palestinians were determined that the interim period will lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state and that the issue of Palestinian refugees, including those displaced after 1948, will not be discussed at the bilateral talks.

The problem of the refugees is expected to be negotiated at the multilateral talks among Israel and all of the Arab parties concerned over regional issues such as economy, water and security arrangements.

But again Mr. Bakr cautioned that such a step can lead to a waiving of the Palestinian people's right to return and serve the Israeli purpose of settling the Palestinians in the Arab countries and avoid facing the issue of Palestinian national rights.

"The Palestinian delegation should have categorically rejected that the refugee problem should be the responsibility of the multi-party talks. This implies the acceptance of the Israeli objective of settling the Palestinian refugees in the Arab countries and a waiver of the refugee's right to return," said Mr. Bakr.

Again he pointed out that even Resolution 242 provided for a better solution for the refugee problem.

"Resolution 242 provides that there should be a just solution to the refugees on the basis of Resolution 194," he said.

Resolution 194, endorsed on Dec. 11, 1948, says Palestinian refugees should be allowed to return to their homes and lands and those who did not wish to return should be reimbursed.

The waiving of the Palestinian right to return is cited by Palestinian hardliners a major reason for opposing the peace conference.

But some PLO officials reject such claims, insisting that the Palestinian delegation will be able to invoke all of the resolutions pertinent to the Palestinian question at the negotiating table. This argument was expressed in Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi's speech, which cited Resolutions 181 and 194 but fell short of a clear insistence that they were part of the basis of the peace talks.

"The Palestinians should have categorically rejected that the refugee problem be discussed at the multilateral talks," Mr. Bakr said.

'Arafat Meets Palestinian Delegates to Madrid

JN0711085291 Amman AKHIBAR AL-USRU in Arabic
7 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, met with the Palestinian delegation which participated in the Madrid conference at the guest palace in Amman yesterday evening. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and the other members briefed 'Arafat on the delegation's talks and contacts during its stay in Madrid.

'Arafat praised the efforts the Palestinian delegation had made in all fields to give a brilliant and vivid picture of the Palestinian cause. The conferees discussed the latest developments and the preparation for the next stage of the bilateral talks.

'Arafat asserted to the delegation that the Palestinian people closely followed their stands and statements with pride and that the Palestinian people will remain a cohesive front behind the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative.

'Arafat Affirms 'Real Commitment' To Negotiations

PM0611162891 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian
5 Nov 91 p 6

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Guido Barendson in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpt] Tunis—[introductory passage omitted]
[Barendson] So, Mr. President, how did these four days of the conference go?

['Arafat] I consider it a very important session, though I regret to note that Shamir and his spokesman, Netanyahu, persist in repeating their slogans—old, stupid, inappropriate, and obsolete slogans. Let us consider Jerusalem: How can they permit themselves to maintain that it is the holy city of the Jews alone? What about us Muslims and Christians; what should we say? So let them at least stop insulting our feelings and show some respect.

[Barendson] But do you not think that this is a normal diplomatic tactic, that when talks begin each one stiffens his own stances?

['Arafat] Nonsense. What did Shamir do in Madrid? He repeated that there will never be a withdrawal from the occupied territories, completely ignoring the fact that the

exchange of land for peace constitutes the first point on the conference platform: the implementation of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and observance of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. So why did he go there, if he is unwilling to accept a compromise, a peaceful solution? Simply to stage yet another show: The fact is that he does not accept the peace initiative at all.

And this is the challenge, the task that awaits the two joint chairmen, America and the Soviet Union: to restore international legality. I wonder whether they will follow the same line adopted during the Gulf crisis or whether instead they will remain bound to odious double standards—one standard for Israel and another for the Arabs, and us first and foremost.

[Barendson] Do you mean that what we saw in Madrid was nothing more than a spectacular photo opportunity set up for the media?

['Arafat] Not at all. It is a good start, but let us not forget how many concessions we have made. Not even the Americans at the end of the Kuwait war went as far as to dictate the names of the Iraqi officials with whom they would talk, whereas here we have allowed the Israelis to say, "no Palestinians from Jerusalem, none from the diaspora, none from the PLO." And yet everyone knows that it was I who appointed the delegations in contact with Secretary of State Baker. Shamir is trying to hide the whole world behind his little finger.

Now, after a good start, I hope that the U.S., USSR's, and Europe's efforts to achieve the implementation of the UN resolutions and the success of President Bush's plan will achieve a good result. In Madrid we have received an initial accurate response, an initial idea of what we expect will be done to gain a just and lasting understanding.

[Barendson] Rather than being pleased about the start of the dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis, you seem anxious to condemn Shamir's policy.

['Arafat] Look, we have just reached an agreement for the bilateral talks with the Israelis to resume within the next two weeks, and I hope that they will start very soon. But I want to tell you a little background story about the conference to demonstrate our sincerity. It was tough in Madrid: While the Israelis were trying to avoid us, we asked the joint presidents to intervene. Only thus did the two delegations manage to sit down at the same table. I do not know where the talks will continue, but certainly not in the Middle East, as Shamir would like. How could we accept Jerusalem, which is under occupation? Any location outside the Middle East suits us—in America, Europe, Russia. The important thing is that it be a single place, the same one, in which negotiations are conducted simultaneously.

[Barendson] Less than a year ago the U.S. Administration and many Western governments considered you finished, a zombie clinging to Saddam Husayn. Would you ever have imagined that the representatives of the occupied territories—figures very close to you—would

have been invited by Baker to play a leading role in the confrontation with the old enemy—Washington's traditional ally in the Middle East?

[Arafat] The negotiating option is no gamble or tactic for us, but a specific choice, a real commitment. We have given our due, made our contribution. We have nothing to lose. Now it remains to be seen how the Americans behave. They talk about the New World Order, and I am waiting to see whether they realize that unless they lance the Middle Eastern boil they will never establish this Order. It is an Order that cannot tolerate the dream of the Greater Israel. As for the contacts that we had in Madrid with the Secretary of State's staff, you are right; our position, compared to that of the Israelis and Syrians, was better, relatively. In any case, the Palestinian question is the most important; it is vital to the future of the region. I hope that Bush realizes this, because otherwise there will be total chaos. War and chaos.

Arab Performance 'Excellent'

NC0611155691 London MBC Television in Arabic
1800 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Report on an interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by MBC Jordan correspondent Sa'd al-Silawi; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Silawi] PLO Chairman 'Arafat has assessed the Arab delegations' performance during the Madrid peace conference.

[Arafat] The Arab performance was excellent in the Palestinian-Jordanian brotherhood and in the full Arab cooperation and coordination, which is what the 16 foreign ministers or their representatives who met in Damascus before or during the Madrid conference decided upon. We hope that they will continue this coordination after the Madrid conference.

In my opinion, it was a remarkable performance in terms of coordination, work, and performance, particularly the topics raised in the face of the obsolete Israeli claims.

[Al-Silawi] In reply to our question about Israel's giving up its condition by holding the bilateral negotiations in a Middle East capital, the PLO chairman said:

[Arafat] Everyone knew in advance that it was a fake condition. Shamir knew in advance that the condition would not be implemented because he cannot impose his ideas or conditions on the Arabs. From the first moment, the Arab side—whether it was the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation or the other Arab delegations—refused this subject. Now, the co-chairmen should work out compromise solutions to this issue. Perhaps, it will be Washington, or Moscow, or another European capital.

'Arafat Receives Message From Greek Premier

LD0511201991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] The brother President leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] today received an important message from the Greek Prime Minister in connection with regional and international issues, especially the Madrid conference and the peace process. The message was delivered by the Greek Ambassador to Tunis.

Newspapers Comment, Editorialize on Peace Talks

Shamir Said To 'Falsify' History

PM0611121091 London AL-QUDS AL-ARABI
in Arabic 2-3 Nov 91 p 11

[Editorial: "Shamir Torpedoes Peace By Disregarding Its Simplest Rules"]

[Text] The peace conference in Madrid has concluded its open first stage. The speeches delivered revealed a big gap between the Arab views, committed to a just peace, and the Israeli view, characterized by extremism.

Not only did Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir falsify history and ignore the resolutions of international legitimacy, but he showed his utmost contempt by leaving the conference for false and unjustifiable religious reasons.

What is more, Shamir continued his traditional game of imposing impossible preconditions on the Arabs by demanding that the bilateral negotiations in rotation between Israel and the Arab states.

Such explosive stances conflict totally with the stances of the Arab states, which emphasized in all their speeches commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy, especially Resolutions 242 and 338.

It has become clear to everyone that Yitzhak Shamir went to Madrid not to make the peace process a success, but to thwart it and to force the Arabs to withdraw and then hold them responsible. It seems that he has to some extent succeeded in that task, since the bilateral talks have entered a critical stage. Even if an agreement is reached on a compromise over its venue, the ground on which they will be based is fragile. As long as Israel rejects the land for peace principle, diverting the conference to side issues, seeking normalization before withdrawal, and avoiding any halt to settlement building, logic states that there will no longer be anything to negotiate.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' was right when he emphasized Shamir's terrorist history and exposed to the world Israel's crimes with regard to hijacking and blowing up civilian aircraft, in addition to its exploitation of the Jews' alleged suffering in order to blackmail the world.

What is needed is for the world public to be informed about such crimes in order to eliminate the accumulations of Zionist media deception over the past four decades.

Whoever wants peace does not build a new settlement in the occupied territories to coincide with the opening of the conference; nor does he send planes to southern Lebanon to bombard villages and camps on the opening day of the conference, impose a curfew on more than 500,000 Palestinians, or prevent worshipers from saying their prayers in Jerusalem, the city of peace.

The Arab side responded to all U.S. pressures and demands with regard to flexibility and attended the opening session without obtaining any Israel concession in connection with the building of settlements or any acceptance of the land-for-peace principle. Thus U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, the conference's sponsor, is urged to make a move to end this Israeli comedy show.

The bilateral negotiations should continue in Madrid and in the presence of representatives from the two sides sponsoring the conference, the United Nations, and the EEC states. This, on the basis of an open Israeli agreement to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle and to stop settlements immediately. Anything else would be a waste of time—and especially of the Arab's time.

'Climate of Optimism' in Territories

TA0511181791 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
5 Nov 91 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Our Legitimate Rights...Even If the Conference Were to Fail!"]

[Text] There is a climate of optimism in the occupied territories as a result of the Madrid peace conference despite the fact that the first phase, other than being a revue of the parties' positions, did not lead to agreements, surprises, or concessions by any party. In all instances, all the parties underscored old wounds due to the conflict's continuation, and no party spared any effort to pour salt on the wounds. Perhaps the reason for optimism is that despite these presentations, no party walked out of the negotiations room. The first phase ended after three days of recriminations and negotiations and the second phase, devoted to bilateral talks, began. The real confrontation will begin here—delving into the core of the conflict and raising important issues, beginning with settlement activity to the exchange of land for peace.

The great majority of Palestinians and Arabs regard the current phase as a historic opportunity suitable for achieving peace. We made numerous concessions in order to put Israel under pressure to attend the Madrid conference. Israel's participation in this conference gives the impression that it came under duress. In reality, Israel took part in the conference without making any concessions and in order to satisfy the United States. After attending the conference, Israel did not try to derail it although it could have done so and could have found many pretexts and

reasons to justify the breakup of the conference; but it did not do so. Observers believe that clever considerations are the reason behind this. President Bush did not cancel or freeze the \$10 billion loan guarantees requested by Israel, rather, he postponed the decision 120 days. Israel behaved in an agreeable manner during the conference and will continue with this approach until the specified period ends and it obtains the loan guarantees. After that, it will know how to deal with the Americans, the Arabs, and the Palestinians!

Until the expiry of this specified period, Israel will try to waste time in modalities and political maneuvers about the venue of bilateral negotiations, the agenda, and the priorities. It is these considerations that induced Israel to respond favorably to the U.S. initiative, bearing in mind that its political positions did not change or alter, as set forward by Shamir during the conference. He frankly declared that the Arabs should abandon their illusions about the land and about negotiations with Israel on the basis of land for peace. Israel raised in the conference all the claims, charges, and slogans heard by the world during past decades. Israel ignored the principles issued by Washington since the Gulf crisis about international legitimacy, the UN's role, and the establishment of a world order based on just principles and human rights.

We in the occupied territories want to believe in the definite success of the Madrid conference, but not at any price. We Arabs and Palestinians have no more concessions to make. Israel is adhering to its goals, represented in direct talks with the Arabs without prior conditions. Now that we have embarked on negotiations with Israel we have to adhere to our legitimate rights and principled positions, even if this might lead to the conference's failure.

Viewing these facts is of immense significance to the Arabs and Palestinians. The options are limited and the pressures enormous for the Arabs to accept less than what was offered to them in the past. If the United States is overzealous and in haste to score any sort of achievement in the conference, we should not give in to the U.S. Administration and should avoid making errors which we will regret in the future. The current phase is marked by all the characteristics of transitional phases in history. Therefore, let the labor pains and birth be natural.

U.S. 'Intervention' Needed

TA0511163591 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English
4 Nov 91 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. Intervention Seems to Be Needed"]

[Excerpt] One thing we can say about Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is that he is consistent and predictable, and his speech at the Madrid peace conference embodied these two characteristics. He was consistent in the sense that he reiterated his government's intransigent position and expression of no remorse or responsibility for the ongoing tragedies in our region. He was also predictable in the sense that he did not come up with any new ideas in Madrid.

In contrast, the speech made by Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, expressed sincerity and a genuine desire for a peaceful settlement with Israel. The speech was pragmatic, realistic and offered a practical and workable agenda for a solution. The Palestinians spoke from the heart and this is why 'Abd-al-Shafi's presentation was honest and frank.

It is unfortunate that as the Palestinians and the Arab governments are showing clear signs of flexibility and a sincere desire to live in peace with Israel, Israel is taking an intransigent position on a solution honorable to all parties of the Middle East conflict. We have in front of us an opportunity for future peace and prosperity. If we miss this chance, it may never come back, and could be replaced by violence and horror.

President Bush and Secretary Baker said more than once that the United States will not impose a settlement on the conflicting parties and neither will it intervene in the course of the negotiations unless it feels there is a need for intervention.

But there will be a need for U.S. intervention. It used its influence to get all the parties to Madrid, but the United States will have to exert even more pressure to get the bilateral and multilateral talks going in the proper direction. [passage omitted]

Habash Announces Withdrawal From PLO Body

JN0611124891 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1118 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Report on press conference by Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP, and 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, PFLP Political Bureau member, on 6 November; place not given; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] At the beginning of the press conference, which was attended by an Al-Quds Radio correspondent, Mr. George Habash made a statement. Following are highlights of the statement:

"Brothers and gentlemen: To begin, I would like to thank you for your attendance and concern about our cause. And through you, I would like to thank your peoples, who, I am sure, reject and resist injustice. You know that as of 30 October, the Palestine question entered a new turning point with the launching of the first and direct steps to implement the so-called U.S. peace plan. This plan, in fact, aims at liquidating national Palestinian and Arab rights and perpetuating Zionist presence on our land.

"Proceeding from its declared views and constants, the U.S. Administration has continued to look for ways to end the Arab-Zionist conflict. I believe you know the American constants—namely, no to the PLO, no to the unity of the Palestinian people, no to the representation or projection of Jerusalem at the first stages of the

negotiations, no to the Palestinian state, no to independent Palestinian representation, and yes to self-administration.

"The U.S. Administration is clearly proposing a solution far removed from the United Nations and the resolutions of international legitimacy. This solution is based on the idea of an autonomy, established over an interim period, after which new negotiations begin to determine the final status of the Palestinian territory, but without this leading to a state; that is, an autonomy, or, at best, within a Jordanian framework or under a Jordanian ceiling.

"We cannot call it confederation because a confederation is established between two states and two sovereignties. In other words, the U.S. Administration is proposing a liquidatory solution to the Palestine question—one that fails to return to the Palestinians their rights, one that entrenches Israel's security, maintains its power, and makes it partner to the waters and wealth of the region. But above all, this solution asserts Israel's right to our land through a Palestinian and Arab recognition and an international testimony.

"We in the PFLP have announced our rejection of this course in part and parcel, not because we like to reject, be different, or be stubborn. We did so because we know the result the U.S. Administration is seeking to achieve."

"We said that if the United States and the international community were serious in reaching a just and comprehensive solution they should work for the implementation of all resolutions of the international legitimacy and hold an international conference that is attended by the permanent members of the Security Council and the other parties concerned, including the PLO, in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

In his press conference held today in which he announced the freezing of the front's membership in the PLO Executive Committee Dr. George Habash added:

"Brothers, the most painful thing for us is the acceptance by the influential leadership of the PLO of the U.S. plan in full and its acceptance to form the Palestinian delegation tailored to the condition or the conditions and standards set by the U.S. Administration without it representing the diaspora, without a representative from Jerusalem, and without commitment to the Palestinian constants which were decided by the various sessions of the Palestine National Council [PNC].

"You noted that the speech of the Palestinian delegation at the Madrid conference has explicitly declared the Palestinians' acceptance of autonomy rule and the transitional period. You also heard statements by Mr. 'Arafat in which he positively evaluated the initial results of the negotiations between the Palestinian and the Israeli delegations, declared confidence in the U.S. Administration, and supported its role and policies.

"Through following up the policy of the PLO's influential leadership, we note the gradual slide. The six principles set by the PNC were soon wiped out altogether by a resolution of the PLO Central Council a few days after the end of the PNC's session, then the whole U.S. plan was accepted, then the declaration of allegiance to the U.S. Administration was made."

George Habash said in his opening statement at today's news conference:

"Therefore, our central committee, and I mean the PFLP Central Committee, has met. In light of my assessment of the whole situation and its dimensions, it has been decided to suspend the membership of our representative at the PLO Executive Committee so that we may not bear, before our people and history, the responsibility of the erroneous political line being pursued by the influential leadership."

"Brothers: I hope you would heed the following point. Our Central Committee has made the decision to freeze, or suspend, the membership of our representative. At the same time, however, it will continue to work alongside other joint national institutions. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that this step might signal more procedural and protest steps in accordance with the decisions and positions that will be made by the leadership of Chairman 'Arafat toward promoting the U.S. plan."

"At the same time, however, it means that we will exercise our role once again within the framework of the Executive Committee, once it goes back on this policy and commits itself to the national constants endorsed by consecutive PNC sessions."

"Concluding, I would like to emphasize that we will cooperate with all Palestinian and Arab forces to thwart this scheme by escalating the intifadah and all other forms of struggle. On the other hand, we will maintain the PLO as an entity and protect it with all our might because it is our moral home."

"Also, we will protect the PLO with all our might because it has been, and will continue to be, our people's sole and legitimate representative, and because it is an organization for all the people and forces, not an organization for an individual or any one faction."

George Habash concluded his statement by saying:

"Allow me, in conclusion, to greet our people inside the occupied homeland who are daily suffering from oppression, torture, and suppression and to call on our brothers, comrades, and patient kinfolk to be united in facing the enemy. I call on them to shun marginal and secondary conflicts that will only serve our enemy. I also tell them that we will continue to struggle on the road toward liberty and independence, the road of repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. Thank you and peace be upon you."

After this statement, questions were taken. Answering a question concerning methods to face the plans of the influential leadership, and to oppose its move aimed at establishing a confederation [with Jordan], George Habash said:

"The basic (?reason) for our position is the humiliating nature of the solution presented by the U.S. Administration before our people. The first basic point which we want to underscore to you, and to the Palestinian and Arab masses, is that it is impossible for us to accept this humiliating solution which was rejected by the Palestinian masses 12 years ago. What is being presented is an administrative self-rule; in other words, the implementation of the Palestinian part in the Camp David treaty. You know that our Palestinian masses categorically rejected this solution. While rejecting this solution, our masses offered up thousands of martyrs."

"Despite the difficulty of the situation, we present an alternative to our Palestinian masses. This alternative is represented—above anything else—by the earnest attempt to change the balance of power through reinforcing, strengthening, and escalating the intifadah, so that the Palestinian link will become strong, cohesive, and capable of resisting the American scheme and of forcing the world to say yes to the international conference."

"On the domestic level, we present the issue of intifadah in terms of strengthening it, reinforcing it, and escalating it; then, the coherence of the Palestinian popular movement and the unity of the Palestinian people; and then, the issue of coordination and cooperation with the movement by all the Arab people."

"On the level of a political solution, we present the issue of the international conference and international legitimacy. This is what we present—international legitimacy called for by China, France, and Europe. During his eight tours, Baker came to paralyze and derail international legitimacy. We call for the return of implementing international legitimacy through the international conference and through seeking of arbitration of all international legitimacy resolutions."

The al-Quds Radio correspondent asked: Does the word suspension only mean not attending the meetings of the PLO Executive Committee? If this Committee decides that the PFLP representative will be in charge of a PLO department, will this representative assume the duty of running the affairs of that particular department? Will this suspension be for a definite period of time? What is the nature of the step that could be taken by the PLO that would result in the withdrawal of the PFLP from the PLO Executive Committee? In his answer to these questions, George Habash said:

"First, we hope that the PLO Executive Committee will take a step that would make the PFLP change its decision on suspension. For example, if the bilateral talks continued without stopping the detrimental settlement process, we expect the Palestinian delegation to withdraw. I hope that a person like Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi will

withdraw and stop this farce if the settlement-building continues during the next three months. And consequently, when I know that my enemy is Israel first and foremost, I really hope that the developments will result in the return of the PFLP to work within the PLO Executive Committee.

"However, if several months have passed while the settlement process continues and if new defeatist steps have been taken, our Central Committee might hold a meeting to take another step in the direction of withdrawal, not suspension. And the difference between the two is that withdrawal means that we will completely withdraw from the PLO Executive Committee, we will tender our resignation to the chairmanship of Palestine National Council [PNC], and we will seek arbitration from the PNC in its 21st session between the PFLP's and the PLO's viewpoints. I believe that every Palestinian hopes that things will proceed in the direction I have pointed out."

It is to be noted that Dr. Habash's answer to our correspondent's question did not say whether or not the PFLP's representative will assume his task of running the department that may be assigned to him. The other question posed by our correspondent concerned news agency reports that demonstrations were arranged [in the occupied territories] with demonstrators carrying olive branches, and about the possibility of the influential leadership tampering with the intifadah. The question was answered by 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, PFLP Political Bureau member, but George Habash commented as follows:

"We believe that at this particular moment, drawing on our observation of the developments, part or parts of our people see some chance, and wish to examine it. In our opinion, this chance is not real, and will prove so. We are fully aware of the fact that some Palestinian sides seek to support their political line, just like other sides seek to explain the dangers of this political line. For some time, therefore, we may see such different viewpoints among our people toward the plan. However, it is all of our responsibility to not turn our political differences over this plan into a struggle within our people, or into a tool to tear apart the unity of our people. If we do this, the result will directly serve the Israeli enemy, and both sides will lose; the side that wants to continue to achieve its national objectives and the side that is going to the negotiations. We, therefore, see the danger of this subject, but, at the same time, we are inclined to handle it on the basis that we all should move against the occupation. The occupation continues on the ground. We may differ in politics and views, but our tools, struggle, and inclinations should be directed against the occupation of our lands. You all see that despite the Madrid conference, an Israeli settlement, which is not going to be the last—the settlement of Qela—was inaugurated while they are conducting talks with Syria and with the Palestinians to reach a solution. We believe that Shamir, as he announced, and the Israeli leadership will not abandon this policy. This will reunite us all, including those who have different views on the course and results of this

plan. They will be united after the features of the Israeli plan, which is supported by the United States at this stage, become evident.

"I would like to add one thing, historically, occupation soldiers were confronted by bullets, or at least by stones. There is nothing in history telling us that an occupation force withdrew as a result of having roses thrown at it."

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Council of Ministers Holds 10th Session

BK0611142891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 1300 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo, has called upon the South Asian countries to resolve their differences and disputes peacefully on the basis of sovereign equality and justice. Addressing, the tenth session of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Council of Ministers in Colombo, he said the world today stands on the threshold of an era of promise and hope and the growing respect for fundamental rights, including the right of self determination. He said prospects and environment for resolution of long-standing conflicts have improved.

Sri Lanka Confirms SAARC Summit Cancelled

Bhutanese King Unable To Attend

BK0611134191 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting
Corporation Radio Network in English 1245 GMT
6 Nov 91

[Text] We begin with a press release [words indistinct] which said that the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Khaleda Zia, President of the Maldives Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, and Madam Amina Abdullah and Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif and Begum Kulsoom Nawaz Sharif will be paying state visits to Sri Lanka on 7th November. Their arrival ceremony will be (?performed) at 0815 at the presidential secretariat. They will be accorded a public reception at the BMICH [Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall] at 1400 tomorrow followed by a cultural pageant at the Sugatadasa stadium at 1730. During their stay in Sri Lanka the three leaders will engage in bilateral discussions with the president of Sri Lanka on matters of mutual interest.

The heads of state or government of the seven SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka—agreed to meet in Colombo on the 7th, 8th, and 9th of November. The Government of Sri Lanka had made all necessary arrangements for the meeting. As is customary in terms of the SAARC charter and those of the procedure, the (?programming) committee comprising of foreign secretaries of member states and the Council of Ministers consisting of foreign ministers met in Colombo on the 3d and the 4th

November and the 5th and 6th November respectively. Mr. Bernard Tilakaratna, foreign secretary of Sri Lanka, was elected chairman of the standing committee. The foreign minister of Sri Lanka, Harold Herath, was elected chairman of the Council of Ministers.

On 1st November, all member states were informed by his majesty, King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan, that owing to certain unexpected developments pertaining to the internal security situation, his majesty would not be able to attend the SAARC summit as scheduled to be held from 7th to 9th November. The president of Sri Lanka consulted President Jayoom, the current chairman of SAARC, and other heads of state or government and suggested that since it would be difficult for Sri Lanka to host the [word indistinct] summit before the end of December 1991, the meeting would be held with the head of state of Bhutan being represented by a duly accredited representative. The Government of India expressed the view that the summit required the personal presence of all heads of state or government. It was therefore not possible to secure agreements on the principle of unanimity which governs the [words indistinct] by SAARC. Hence, the Government of Sri Lanka regrets that it will not be possible for the sixth SAARC summit to take place.

The guard of honor for the heads of state arrival in Sri Lanka tomorrow will be held opposite the presidential secretariat at 0830. The ceremony to welcome the heads of state will be held at 1400 tomorrow at the BMICH in Colombo. All invitees for the inaugural ceremony of the SAARC conference are requested to arrive at the BMICH for the ceremony. A variety show will be held at Sugatadasa Indoor Stadium at 1800 tomorrow. Invitees are requested to be present with the invitation cards at the indoor stadium at 1700.

3 SAARC Leaders Arrive

BK071115891 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Excerpt] SAARC leaders have arrived in Sri Lanka and they were welcomed with full state honors. The official welcoming ceremonies were held at the Presidential secretariat at (Galle Ace), Colombo where they were accorded a red carpet welcome. The leaders arrived in a motorcade preceded by mounted police. President Ranasinghe Premadasa and Madam Hema Premadasa welcomed the leaders. They were conducted into the special dais as the national anthem of their respective countries and Sri Lanka's national anthem were played. These leaders were accorded by a 21-gun salute. This was followed by a guard of honor by the Army.

The arrival ceremony for Bangladeshi Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was held at 1000 [0430 GMT]. Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom and Madam Nazreena Abdul Gayoom were officially welcomed at 1115. The Pakistan prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, and Begum Kulsoom Nawaz Sharif were officially welcomed after that.

The entire city has been decorated with flags of all the SAARC nations to welcome them. There were large crowds on (Galle Ace) to witness the welcoming ceremony. The state reception at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall in Colombo in honor of the three visiting heads of state and government was commenced at 1500. [passage omitted]

Summit Postponed 'Indefinitely'

BK0711093091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0753 GMT 7 Nov 91

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 7 (AFP)—The collapse of a South Asian summit here jeopardises the future of dialogue and economic cooperation in the world's poorest region, diplomats and analysts said Thursday.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit, scheduled to open here Thursday, was postponed indefinitely over the absence of the King of Bhutan, a decision viewed as a regional snub to Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Political analysts say that New Delhi had chosen the SAARC summit "to teach Premadasa a lesson" for his refusal to host it in 1989 and Colombo's absence from last year's summit in Male, the capital of the Maldives.

Bhutan's King Jigme Singye Wangchuck cited the threat of "subversion" at home for his absence here.

Colombo said the summit should go ahead with Bhutan sending a delegate to stand-in for the king.

Both New Delhi and Male insisted instead on postponement of the summit in the absence of the king, a founding member of the organisation set up in 1985 to raise the living standards of one billion people in the impoverished region.

Premadasa has not commented on the indefinite postponement of the summit during which Sri Lanka was to take over the chairmanship of the seven-nation association grouping Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

But local officials said they expect a strong backlash from Premadasa because he was closely involved in the elaborate preparations to receive SAARC leaders.

"It is too early to speculate if Colombo will pull out from SAARC altogether. But this cancellation is certainly a milestone in SAARC," a senior Sri Lankan official said.

Decisions at SAARC must be taken through consensus and withdrawal of any member state would mean its collapse.

New Delhi has denied that it was behind the decision of the king, close to India in foreign policy matters, to stay away.

India's state minister for external affairs, Eduardo Faleiro, told reporters here Wednesday that New Delhi's

delegation had come to Colombo fully prepared to attend the summit and Prime Minister Narasimha Rao had even agreed to make an overnight visit despite crucial by-elections at home.

Asked if New Delhi was responsible for sabotaging the meet, he was quoted as saying: "How can it be. How can it be. How can it be."

"No power, however big or powerful, should regard an association founded as an instrument of regional cooperation...as a means of delivering diplomatic snubs of one kind or another," the government run DAILY NEWS quoted him as saying.

The king of Nepal [as received] was the only SAARC leader not to receive a personal invitation to the summit from Premadasa, described by the opposition here as diplomatic bungling by Colombo.

Softening the blow for Premadasa, the three Moslem leaders in SAARC—Bangladesh Premier Khaleda Zia, Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom and Pakistan Premier Nawaz Sharif—arrived here Thursday on state visits "in view of the elaborate arrangements made," diplomats said.

This year's summit was expected to focus on economic cooperation, ways of combatting terrorism, environmental issues and poverty alleviation.

In recent months, the state media here been extolling the virtues of regionalism in a build up to the sixth summit although the organisation has achieved little since coming into being in 1985.

The region has been plagued by tensions and suspicions between neighbours although contentious bilateral issues cannot be discussed in SAARC.

Indian Spokesman Comments

BK0611162891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Excerpts] The sixth SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit scheduled to begin in Colombo tomorrow has been postponed. [passage omitted]

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi today that India has always stressed that the SAARC spirit requires that decisions be through the process of consultations and on the basis of unanimity at the highest level. The spokesman said when one member does not attend the summit, it is dilution of this spirit and this view is shared by several other countries also.

Replying to a specific question, he said it is wrong to suggest that India did not want Bhutan to attend the

summit. The speculation on why one particular country did not go will continue and he cannot make any comment on such speculations, the spokesman added.

It is for the second time since the inception of SAARC in 1985 that the summit meet has failed to take place.

SAARC in 'Peculiar Position'

BK0711060491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Commentary by All India Radio Colombo correspondent Muthu Kumar]

[Text] The postponement of the sixth SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit scheduled to open in Colombo today has brought to an end the chain of events, which started with the king of Bhutan's decision not to take part in the summit. SAARC conventions require that the summit be attended by the heads of state or government of all the seven member-countries. With the king of Bhutan's decision, the summit had not only become uncertain but possibly a nonstarter too. Despite this, the Sri Lankan Government, which was to host the summit, persisted with the calendar of events preceding the summit. But by Sunday, it had become clear that the summit had been seriously jeopardized and it will be difficult to go ahead with it.

The Sri Lankan Government's announcement in Colombo yesterday said that it regrets that under the circumstances, it is not possible for the summit to take place. The official communique detailing the circumstances says that the decision follows the failure of the member-states to arrive at a consensus over the Sri Lankan proposal to go ahead with the summit with the king of Bhutan being represented by a duly accredited representative. Sri Lanka also said it would be difficult to reschedule the summit before the end of this year. The communique said that India was of the view that the summit required the personal presence of all the heads of government. It is, however, silent over the views expressed by the other member-states on the efforts to salvage the summit after King Jigme Singye Wangchuk decided not to attend.

Meanwhile, the Indian High Commission in Colombo issued a statement saying that President Gayoom of the Maldives in his capacity as chairman of SAARC had informed the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, that the summit cannot be held as scheduled. It said President Gayoom had come to the conclusion after extensive consultations with the SAARC member-countries.

At their meetings in Colombo earlier in the week, significant ground was covered by the standing committee and the foreign ministers in areas, like liberalization of trade and setting up of SAARC fund for regional projects. However, the SAARC today finds itself in a peculiar position with the summit having been called off.

Egypt

Mubarak, France's Dumas Confer on Madrid Process

PM0511102291 Paris LE MONDE in French
5 Nov 91 p 4

[Claire Trean report: "Mr. Dumas Stressed Need for "Parallelism" Between Different Negotiations"]

[Text] Ismailia—During talks with President Mubarak and Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister in charge of foreign affairs, in Ismailia on Saturday 2 November, Roland Dumas was able to verify his agreement with the Egyptian leaders on how to approach the follow-up to the process started in Madrid. Mr. Dumas stated in particular that he is in favor of the Egyptian president's idea of continuing the bilateral negotiations started in Madrid in the United States.

After his meeting with Mr. Mubarak, the French minister also stressed the need to maintain "parallelism" between bilateral and multilateral negotiations, without which the Madrid process is likely to fail. "One set of negotiations determines the other," he said.

According to French sources, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had approached the European countries as well as the Soviet Union, Canada, and Japan at the end of last week to ask them to hold a preparatory meeting with the peace conference participants in the near future in preparation for the multilateral negotiations proper—talks which should deal, among other things, with questions of development and stability in the region. Questioned on this invitation, Roland Dumas said he was in favor of it but that this meeting should simply be preparatory. He said he agreed with President Mubarak that it would be premature to try to start multilateral negotiations before the bilateral negotiations "are started in earnest." "No Arab country—not just Syria and Lebanon but also the others, especially the Gulf countries—will dare to attend multilateral talks if nothing fundamental has been secured in the bilateral talks," he said.

The informal meeting proposed by the U.S. secretary of state would aim to show that the Arab countries are ready to participate in the multilateral phase which, at present, some of them are refusing to do. The prospect of this meeting could, in particular, encourage Israel to make a gesture to bring progress in the bilateral negotiations.

Mr. Roland Dumas then went to Jiddah where he had talks with King Fahd, to whom he handed a message from Francois Mitterrand. After that meeting, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal expressed his country's support for the Near East peace efforts and expressed the hope that Israel will accept the principle of the "territories for peace." He added that Saudi Arabia is "counting on the role of France" with which it shares "the same outlook" and the hope that the process started in Madrid "will succeed."

Musa, Jordanian Envoy Discuss Peace Conference

NC0611132491 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Jordanian Ambassador in Cairo Nabih al-Nimr. The talks dealt with the outcome of the first and future stages of the peace conference. The ambassador said what happened in the first stage, particularly from the Israeli side, was expected. He said that preparations for the resumption of negotiations will continue.

The Jordanian ambassador affirmed that coordination exists among the Arab sides, particularly between Jordan and Egypt. He said that Egypt has experience in the negotiations process. He added that the talks did not deal with the issue of convening a meeting of the countries concerned with the Arab-Israeli dispute.

The Jordanian ambassador condemned the building of a new Israeli settlement in the Syrian Golan Heights, stressing that this step is an act of provocation that is bound to obstruct the peace efforts.

EC's Delors Arrives in Cairo on 3-Day Visit

NC0611153691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT
6 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—EC Commission President Jacques Delors arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a three-day visit to Egypt. He was met at the airport by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, who said that Egypt and the EC have strong ties, particularly economic. Dr. Sidqi said that the EC acted honorably in assisting countries which sustained losses during the Gulf crisis, Egypt in particular, offering financial and food assistance, and financing many projects with easy term loans.

The prime minister said that Europe has become an independent power and is heading toward all-out unity. It cannot be excluded from the peace talks, and that is why Egypt insisted it play a role in the peace process, firmly establishing peace.

Delors said that his visit to Egypt was arranged with President Husni Mubarak in Brussels. He said he is visiting Egypt despite the EC's heavy schedule of talks on political unity in Europe. Delors said he looks forward to hearing President Mubarak, the prime minister, and government officials assessing events, and Egypt's role as a bridge between Europe and Africa.

On European support for the peace process after EC participation in the Madrid conference, and the EC role in regional negotiations, Delors said: It is essential that we should first achieve the land for peace principle, and realise that economic cooperation alone is not enough to guarantee conference success.

Delors said that Egyptian officials always affirm that conference success is based on three factors: Peace, land, and security. He said that Europe is trying to find a new

formula of cooperation with the region and Egypt, adding that as a group it is ready to make all efforts to promote cooperation with the region.

Confers With Musa on Madrid Events

*NC0611155691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT
6 Nov 91*

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and EC Commission President Jacques Delors shared a working lunch today when they reviewed Middle East developments. Musa reviewed the first stage of the peace conference and the obstacles facing the second.

Referring to Egypt's efforts and contacts with the parties to overcome these obstacles, he stressed Egypt's desire to see the EC play an effective role in finding a Palestinian solution since peace and security in the Middle East are linked to peace and security in Europe.

The foreign minister also noted the importance of the EC's role in helping to implement projects for protecting the environment and supporting development in the region.

Comments on Israeli Settlements

*NC0611210391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT
6 Nov 91*

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak tonight, EC President Jacques Delors said: It was a good opportunity to hear President Mubarak's assessment of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid and of the post-Gulf war situation in the Middle East.

Discussions dealt with the situation in Europe and the Soviet Union, he added, and the possibility of increasing cooperation between Egypt and the EC on a nation-to-nation and multilateral level.

Replying to a question on the establishment of a new Israeli settlement in the occupied Golan Heights, Delors said that any decision or action that leads to the destruction of the current fragile atmosphere is detrimental to Middle East peace.

Delors, discussing the upcoming bilateral Arab-Israeli talks, said that it is natural that bilateral talks be between two sides only. He praised Foreign Minister Musa's role in bringing views closer which helped begin the bilateral talks. He said that the EC advises the parties to start the negotiations and create a good atmosphere despite the difficult issues. He noted that the EC's priorities will force it to participate in the multilateral negotiations when they start.

Al-Baz Discusses Conference, Israeli Settlements

*NC0611180691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT
6 Nov 91*

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met today with U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau to discuss Middle East developments and ongoing efforts to move the peace process forward.

Following the meeting, Dr. al-Baz said the general consensus is that the initial stage of the peace conference produced positive results. I never expected the conference to culminate in a quick agreement, he said, noting that several rounds of multilateral negotiations involving the United States are required. He added that Egypt hopes progress will be made on the issue.

Dr. al-Baz said progress was achieved at the conference and that certain secondary issues were discussed. Egypt is acquainted with the approaches of the various parties concerned and hopes the negotiations will be resumed within the next few weeks, he said.

Dr. al-Baz asserted that Egypt seeks to achieve full coordination among the Arabs, including other Arab states in the picture every day.

He underlined that Egypt does not have a neutral role in these negotiations; it is an active partner that happens to be at peace with Israel and can, therefore, talk to all parties.

Commenting on the building of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, Dr. al-Baz said Egypt believes that this conduct is unjustifiable and runs counter to the peace process, saying that this weakens confidence in Israel's seriousness in peace-oriented pursuits. He demanded that Israel halt all settlements.

Paper Terms Israeli Settlements 'Weapons'

*NC0711084691 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 7 Nov 91*

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Settlements Will Not Stop the Wheel of Peace", the newspaper AL-AKHBAR expressed its belief that the settlement-building process in the occupied Arab territories will continue to be among those weapons Israel will use as a last resort to stop the wheel of peace, after all the other methods and maneuvers have failed to stop it. Shamir was forced to travel reluctantly to Madrid to hear what he does not like to hear, especially from international public opinion, which was following up the first sessions of the peace conference.

The newspaper continues: Not a single day passes without Tel Aviv announcing its plans to set up new settlements in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and the Golan

Heights. Undoubtedly, through this defiance, Israel's government wants to convince public opinion everywhere in the world that all Arab and international efforts being exerted in the Spanish capital are merely smoke, because in the final analysis, they will not lead to returning Israel to its pre-1967 war borders.

The newspaper AL-AKHBAR drew attention to the fact that Egypt has a similar experience with the Jewish settlements set up by Israel on the northern coast of Sinai and the hotel it built in Taba, which Israel deluded itself into thinking it would keep, even after the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty was signed. Israel eventually was forced to demolish these settlements with its own hands and to evacuate its citizens before Cairo's steadfastness and insistence on cleaning all its territories of the last remains of an oppressive occupation.

Concluding its article, the newspaper affirmed that the entire world, along with international laws, affirms that the building of Israeli settlements is unjust and illegal and that what was built unjustly will continue to be unjust, irrespective of all the justifications given it. The region will not enjoy any kind of peace as long as there is a displaced nation looking for a home while it sees western elements, proceeding from the law of the jungle and force, occupying its land and homes.

Inter-Arab Coordination on Peace Talks Urged

NC0511153691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0624 GMT
5 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—[Passage omitted] In its commentary today AL-AHRAM emphasizes the importance of Arab coordination for adopting closely-linked stands during the bilateral negotiations, and a unified stand during regional negotiations.

The paper notes that coordination is important for two reasons. Adopting close stands during bilateral talks will prevent Israel from concluding bilateral agreements with some, not all of the parties, which could lead to separate solutions weakening the position of Arab parties which did not reach agreement with Israel. A unified Arab stand during regional negotiations will help the Arab states control the course of negotiations, linking them to tangible progress in bilateral talks, so that any agreements on regional issues will depend on bilateral talks' success.

The paper adds that this requires an Arab committee to coordinate Arab parties' positions. Egypt could play a major role in supervising its work, based on Egyptian experience negotiating with Israel and the Egyptian negotiator's understanding of his Israeli counterpart's nature and style.

AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that the peace talks will continue in spite of the difficulties, risks, and obstacles until a just and comprehensive peace is attained.

In its commentary, Lessons on the Road to Peace, the paper notes that some quarters consider convening a peace conference an accomplishment that could help absorb the historical shocks, healing the bitter Arab-Israeli conflict's psychological wounds. It is also required to stand firm against those who seek to foil and undermine the peace effort. The paper notes that despite the lengthy agenda and moves on the meeting's date and venue designed to derail the dialogue and negotiations, the conference should continue because the parties have begun to deal with the Palestinian issue as a people's, not refugee, problem. Palestinian representatives have started to negotiate with the other party on their legitimate rights and arrangements that could restore their territories, leading to a Palestinian state.

The paper concludes that the leadership and people of Egypt have exerted relentless efforts to keep the issue from falling into limbo, made considerable sacrifices for liberation, and provided an example and model for peace which all the parties are trying to follow.

Iran's Khorasani Call for Relations Discussed

NC0611214191 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1840 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Interview with AL-AHRAM Deputy Chief Editor 'Izzat al-Sa'dani on call by Raja'i Khorasani, chairman of the Iranian parliament's Foreign Relations Committee, for the reestablishment of diplomatic ties between Egypt and Iran, by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given, from the "Talking Newspaper" program—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. 'Izzat al-Sa'dani: You have read the statements by Iranian official Raja'i Khorasani. As an observer who is very experienced in Middle East affairs, will you tell us what the statement means at this time?

[Al-Sa'dani] The least we can say is that it is a confused statement with no significance whatsoever except that it was made by someone who takes no responsibility for his words. The Iranian official totally forgot that Egypt's role in the peace conference is a great, positive role which can only be played by a sponsor and caller for that great conference. This great peaceful role cannot be described as a type of treason, of turning one's back on the cause, or submission to Zionism or the West, as they usually claim.

[Correspondent] Egypt has participated in the conference side-by-side with Arab states on an equal footing. They must have all made a mistake. Syria attended the conference. Can we know the Iranian stand on Syria, a state which attended the conference?

[Al-Sa'dani] We know of course that relations between Syria and Iran are cordial, excellent.

[Correspondent] I mean after Syria's participation in the conference and Khorasani's comments.

[Al-Sa'dani] Before that, Iran's relations with Syria were very good. I imagine that the situation must change completely now that the Syrians have attended the conference. Syria attended and so did we. Why, then, are they discriminating between the Egyptian and Syrian stands. Regardless of the Iranian official's statements, I believe that a certain tone is very popular these days; namely, to attempt to ruin the proud Arab, Egyptian, and Palestinian stands at the peace conference.

[Correspondent] When President Mubarak spoke at the 100th anniversary of the Dar al-'Ulum, he was truthful when he talked about this matter.

[Al-Sa'dani] I really do not know why people forget the great Egyptian role which was played earlier. Regrettably enough, we keep silent. We kept silent for 43 years. Egypt acted in 1977, when al-Sadat landed in Jerusalem airport and talked to the Israelis from a powerful position, telling them: You knew us in battle and we now come in peace. In 1979, we signed the Camp David accord. Today, they wish they could take or apply even part of the Camp David accord. If the Palestinians had come to the Mena House hotel—the Palestinian flags were hoisted and we waited for Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinians to come to reach the autonomy which would have ultimately led to the establishment of a Palestinian state—we could have taken some big strides 10 years ago.

[Correspondent] After 10 years, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chairman of the Palestinian delegation, says the Palestinians accept autonomy.

[Al-Sa'dani] I am telling you that Egypt is always ahead and looking ahead. It always takes the initiative. I do not know what this Iranian official wants.

[Correspondent] How do you explain the Iranian stand; they were known to have considerable dealings with Israel during their war with Iraq. We knew about the arms shipments which were transported to Iran via Elat. We knew all this. All the Iranians did was call Israel the small Satan. What is the significance of this two-sided conduct?

[Al-Sa'dani] The Iranians are pursuing a very serious trend these days. They lament Arab participation in the conference. Israel could be described as a full partner with Iran during the battles in the Fao peninsula. When I visited Iraq and went to Fao, I learned that it was the Israelis who planned the first battle, in which Iran entered and seized a large portion of Fao before it was liberated. This is apart from the weapons provided by Israel and other activities. The Iranians are people whose words are inconsistent with their actions. Why do they not criticize Israel for taking part in the conference. Israel, under our brother Shamir's leadership, is trying by all means possible to foil the conference and stop the peace march; however, the will of the great major states and the will of peace will emerge victorious. You know that major states insist that the so-called Arab-Israeli conflict end. The Palestinians must gain autonomy today

so that they will have a state within a state tomorrow. Voices within Israel itself are calling for peaceful coexistence with the Palestinians and for establishing a Palestinian state side by side with the state of Israel.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Syrian Response to Shamir's Attacks Examined

NC0611173291 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
4 Nov 91 p 1,5

["Madrid Papers" by Mahfuz al-Ansari: Syria is Israel's Target. Who Will Be Responsible for Failure?]

[Excerpts] Temporarily putting aside differences on the date and venue for resuming bilateral negotiations; regardless of Syria's participation in the first procedural session with Israel in Madrid; and leaving aside the issue of "resuming" negotiations at a later date and a different venue, one fact of the Madrid meeting remains: The Israelis came to Madrid with their eyes set on Syria and bilateral and multilateral negotiations. They wanted to embarrass and unnerve the Syrians in an effort to get them angry and "withdraw" from the entire process.

This is a long-term Israeli tactic. They believe it would be good to provoke and unnerve their adversaries in the first stage of the conference. If they fail in the first stage, then the differences during the second stage—venue, agenda, and date—gives them a second opportunity to pressure and harden their position and force the Syrians to back out, spoiling the continuity of the peace process and halting it; all the while knowing it is a domino process, that failure in one area will lead to failure in others.

The Israeli tactics take into account the third stage too, the stage of multilateral negotiations, slated to start on around 12 or 14 November. [passage omitted]

The third day of the conference started early. Shamir began the speeches, his eyes on Syria. His aim was to force Syria to back out, even if it meant starting an argument. Shamir launched a concentrated attack on Syria, its regime, and its leaders. He attacked Syria's present and its past. He described the regime as the world's most repressive and tyrannical dictatorship, one that does not respect human rights and kills, tortures, and expels Jews and non-Jews alike. He left nothing unsaid, speaking with cool nerves and lethal persistence.

The session was adjourned after the speech because the Israeli prime minister had to be back in Tel Aviv before sunset.

Shamir's expectation was dashed, however. Faruq al-Shar' and his delegation did not withdraw. Al-Shar' opened a file prepared among the other papers in case the conferees deviated from the normal procedures. He recalled the Israeli prime minister's past terrorist role. He showed a copy of a British leaflet distributed to security forces during and after the British mandate in

Palestine calling for the arrest of the fugitive killer "Yitzhak Shamir," who assassinated an international peace envoy, Count Bernadotte.

Of course, the atmosphere was electrified. The session chairman, Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, asked al-Shar' to stay within his time limit, hoping that the situation would not get exacerbated. The conference exploded and the session was adjourned. The "conference moderator" Baker tried to restore order and reimpose control. His efforts lasted more than two hours. The session was resumed and the speeches ended. The Soviet foreign minister then announced the end of the conference.

We must truthfully say that although Shamir's persistence, provocations, tactics, and "his bullets" were directed everywhere, they were particularly focused on the Syrians. They have missed their target, but not altogether. That was the loss. This crisis and the skirmishes that preceded it had an effect on the Syrians. The Syrian delegation did not withdraw. It paid back the Israelis twofold to the extent that the Israelis were the ones who threatened to withdraw to protest al-Shar's speech.

The Syrian stand on procedural questions on the peace scenario and stages became intransigent again, after having thwarted Israeli maneuvers since the start of the contacts. Instead of agreeing to participate in the first sessions of direct negotiations in Madrid, and then to agree on the date and venue of further talks, in Madrid or elsewhere, Syria insisted on everything being clear from the beginning.

Interior Minister on Arrests, Sabotage Attempts

NC0411175891 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
1 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has said that 67 Egyptians were arrested for preparing pamphlets voicing opposition to the peace conference. In statements to a newspaper yesterday, Musa said that the pamphlets promoted the idea that killing those who supported the peace conference would be legal. The interior minister announced that the detainees belong to various political groups, and he said that 49 incidents of sabotage supported by Iraq have been thwarted since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. The last attempt was thwarted three or four weeks ago. Musa said that the attempt was planned as a large operation which included killing and bloodshed. Weapons were seized at the port in Nuwaybi' and 77 people were arrested, among them 13 Egyptians, Palestinians, Iraqis, Tunisians, and Algerians.

Libyan Envoy on 'Fraternal' Relations

NC0611163591 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
3 Nov 91 p 6

[Abd-al-Wahid 'Abd-al-Qadir Report]

[Text] Ahmad Qadhdhaf-al-Damm, coordinator general of Egyptian-Libyan relations, has said that there is no going back on the people's congress decision freely approving the 10 agreements between the fraternal Egyptian and Libyan peoples, ratified by the Egyptian People's Assembly and the Libyan General People's Congress.

He told AL-AHRAM that the incidents or violations on the Egyptian-Libyan border were irresponsible actions by individuals, subject to investigation and ordinary laws. He added that such actions might involve citizens of either country without affecting the two fraternal peoples' strong relations and brotherhood, pointing out that there is no more going back after President Husni Mubarak and his brother Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi fulfilled the two fraternal peoples' desire to return to their eternal relations of which we are proud.

Qadhdhaf-al-Damm added: We want fraternal Egyptian-Libyan relations to be an example of Arab relations. During President Mubarak's era they have been based on frankness and clarity, he said, adding: Though we might have different views on some political issues, we agree on the goals.

He stressed that any apparent differences in political stands could never affect or reflect on the relations of the one people, noting that "consultations between the two leaderships and countries are continuing, have not stopped, and we are in complete agreement.

Fishermen Detained in Eritrea Released

NC0511204991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1912 GMT
5 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—One hundred Egyptian fishermen detained by Eritrean authorities returned to Cairo tonight.

This is the first group of 192 fishermen who have been detained since June. The remaining 92 fishermen are scheduled to return on Friday.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has carried out intensive negotiations with Eritrean authorities for the (?return) of these fishermen and their boats.

Sudan

SPLA Denies Pro-Garang Commander Ousted

AB0511222491 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 4 Nov 91

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Opponents of John Garang within his own SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebel group say they have struck another blow against his authority. Several months ago they claimed to have ousted him from the leadership after accusing him of dictatorial methods and the forcible recruitment of child soldiers.

He brushed the challenge aside and maintained that he still had the loyalty of the majority of his organization. Now his opponents claim to have ousted the pro-Garang SPLA commander in the Nubah Mountains, Yusuf Kuwah. On the line to Nairobi, Robin White asked Lam Akol, one of the anti-Garang commanders, who has been waiting there for weeks for peace talks with Garang's people, what his information was:

[Begin recording] [Akol] Well, my information is that on 29th of October the deputy zonal commander of southern Kurdufan, Lieutenant Commandant Awad al-Karim Kuku, and three others of his staff have deposed Yusuf Kuwah because of his stand regarding the present development in the SPLA.

[White] So, exactly what happened? Did they arrest him?

[Akol] Well, they arrested. Yes, and they took him out of command and now the command is in the hands of the four senior officers following him immediately, as I just mentioned their names.

[White] But is he locked up?

[Akol] Well, he is no longer in command. This is as far as I can say.

[White] Now, how do you know this?

[Akol] We were contacted by the officers concerned through radio.

[White] And they are pledging loyalty to you?

[Akol] Yes, they are pledging full loyalty to us because they are part of what we have been doing.

[White] And what difference will this make to the SPLA?

[Akol] Well, it makes a lot of difference because now the entire Nubah Mountains will be supporting us and, therefore, the entire northern part of the liberated area is under our control.

[White] I gather that a delegation from John Garang has finally arrived in Nairobi for talks with you. When might those start?

[Akol] We do not know as yet but the ball is on their side. We have been here for more than five weeks now. So, when they are ready, we are ready to talk to them. [end recording]

[(Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English at 1300 GMT on 5 November reports that "the official spokesman" of the movement "has refuted [the] claim yesterday by Lam Akol Ajawin over the BBC 'Focus on Africa' program that alternate Commander

Awad al-Karim Kuku had deposed Commander Yusuf Kuwah Makki. The spokesman described Lam Akol's claim that Awad al-Karim has pledged to support their failed coup as a white lie. The spokesman went on to say that there is no reason why the patriots from Nubah, Darfur, and Ingesea in the SPLA should support or be expected to support Riak [Machar and] Lam, who stand for separation of the south. It is simple, absurd, and against common sense, concluded the spokesman."]

Tunisia

President Pardons Prisoners, Former Ministers

LD0611210191 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1645 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] On the occasion of the fourth anniversary of 7 November, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has pardoned 1,070 people sentenced by civil and military courts, releasing 141 of them and reducing the sentences of the others. His excellency the president has also pardoned Tahar Belkhodja and Driss Guiga [former ministers] by dropping their sentences.

The minister of justice informed the head of state that the amnesty committee approved 1,613 applications for the restoration of rights.

The decisions were made today when the head of state met with Abdallah Kallel, minister of state and interior minister, and Abderrahim Zouari, justice minister.

736 Prisoners Paroled

LD0611224191 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] The Interior Ministry released the following statement today: On the occasion of the fourth anniversary of 7 November, the Interior Ministry Parole Committee met and decided to release on parole 736 prisoners who have fulfilled the legal conditions.

President Ben Ali Appoints New Maghreb Secretary

LD021112591 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning met at the Carthage Palace with Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, who said afterwards that the president has decided to appoint Said Ben Mustapha as secretary of state attached to the foreign minister in charge of Arab Maghreb Union affairs. He succeeds Hamadi Khouini, who has been appointed Tunisian permanent delegate to the United Nations in New York, who in turn succeeds Ahmed Rwab, whom the president has appointed first adviser to the president of the Republic.

Defense Minister Relieved; al-Majid Takes Over
JN0611182591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1816 GMT
6 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—Three presidential decrees were issued this evening. The first relieves Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan of his post and all his responsibilities.

The second decree appoints Interior Minister Lieutenant General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid as the new minister of defense.

The third decree appoints Defense Minister Lieutenant General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid acting interior minister.

The following is the text of the presidential decrees:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential Decree No. 632.

In accordance with the provisions contained in Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we decree the following:

Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan shall be relieved of his post and all his other job responsibilities.

The prime minister and competent ministers shall implement this decree.

Drafted in Baghdad on 29 Rabi' Thani 1412 Hegira, corresponding to 6 November 1991.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic.

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential Decree No. 633.

In accordance with the provisions contained in Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we decree the following:

Interior Minister Staff Lieutenant General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid shall be appointed defense minister.

The prime minister and the competent ministers shall implement this decree.

Drafted in Baghdad on 29 Rabi' Thani, 1412 Hegira, corresponding to 6 November 1991.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Presidential Decree No. 634.

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we decree the following:

Defense Minister Lieutenant General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid shall be appointed acting interior minister.

The prime minister and competent ministers shall implement this decree.

Drafted in Baghdad on 29 Rabi' Thani 1412 hegira, corresponding to 6 November 1991.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the republic.

Talabani on Failed Negotiations, Saddam's Demands

NC0611174891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi
People in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], said his negotiations with the tyrant Saddam in Baghdad failed because the tyrant presented a list of demands, including a request that Kurdish groups become part of and a protective force for the Iraqi dictatorship. He said the dictatorship in Baghdad wanted to turn the Kurdish groups into a strike force against all Iraqi opposition groups, as well as against Iraq's neighbors, including Arab states.

Talabani said this involved hostility against Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and what Saddam calls "all reactionary regimes".

Jalal Talabani asserted that these demands are unfeasible and cannot be accepted. He pointed out that one of the reasons for the failure of the negotiations with Saddam was the tyrant's request that Kurdish groups declare their hostility to all regimes which he deems hostile. Talabani noted that many other reasons were behind the failure of these negotiations.

Regime Said To Use Napalm on Southern Villages

NC0611161291 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi
People in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Excerpt] The defeated tyrant's forces have launched attacks on towns in southern Iraq, forcing thousands of citizens to take refuge in adjacent marshlands. Some refugees have been cited as saying that fighter planes and heavy artillery were used to attack the areas where refugees are assembling.

In another development, Kurdish sources in Zakho say that there have been armed clashes in the past few days between the defeated tyrant's forces and armed Kurds in the area of Arbil. Kurdish fighters told AFP that the clashes are continuing but no casualties have been reported. They did not touch on the warring sides' positions or the cause of the clashes, one month after fierce fighting in the city of al-Sulaymaniya left more than 60 dead.

Elsewhere, eyewitnesses say that the tyrant forces flew helicopters over the area of Arbil, dropping napalm over some villages. [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz on Socialism, Events in USSR
JN0611202191 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] The intellectual dialogue seminar on the basic points contained in the political statement issued by the 10th regional congress, the Congress of Jihad and Construction, continued its work this evening. Participants discussed a working paper on the future of socialism presented by Comrade Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'ith Party Regional Command and deputy official in charge of culture and information at the National Command, as part of the seminar's second session.

In his paper, which he presented during the second working session of the seminar, Comrade Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'ith Party Regional Command, said that the capitalist propaganda machines in the West in general, and the United States in particular, are now launching an open and frenzied campaign of defamation against socialist regimes, values, and applications. The capitalist propaganda machines claim that the decline of the communist rule in the USSR and Eastern Europe means that capitalism triumphed, and socialism is finished.

'Aziz added: The capitalist propaganda machines, which are adept at deception, cannot persist in this process forever. Irrespective of the exciting methods it is currently using to promote deceptive conclusions regarding the fate of socialism and the triumph of capitalism, basic facts are eventually bound to reemerge and be reconfirmed.

Comrade Tariq 'Aziz affirmed that socialism to the peoples of the Third World is not only a necessity for achieving social justice and economic and social equilibrium, but also a prerequisite for sovereignty, independence, and the preservation of basic national interests. While assessing recent events in the USSR and Eastern Europe, he said: We have to differentiate between two different things. The first thing is the fall of communist rule, and the second is the decline in the international roles of the USSR and Eastern European countries; the roles which had served to counterbalance the drive for colonialist military hegemony demonstrated by the United States and Western Europe. This makes us draw the conclusion that the decline of communist rule in the Soviet Union can never, at all, mean a philosophical, political, or ethical triumph for capitalism over socialism.

Tariq 'Aziz indicated in his paper that socialism has never been a Soviet invention that would collapse with the decline of Soviet communist rule. Likewise, capitalism, he noted, is not now at its best for the current situation to be interpreted as a victory. He who follows the situation in capitalist countries, especially in the United States, easily discovers that the capitalist system still has numerous inherent crises and manifestations of injustice that have prompted many thinkers and people in the West to embrace socialism as an alternative to capitalism.

Comrade Tariq 'Aziz affirmed that peoples of the Third World, which embrace the capitalist system as a theory and system, are indeed embracing an ideology and a system conducive to their enslavement to the Western capitalist countries. He added: Some backward and arbitrary applications of socialism in certain Third World countries have actually harmed these countries, created suffocating economic crises therein, and rendered them incapable of achieving development. These mistakes, Tariq 'Aziz maintained, are exploited by the U.S. and Western capitalist propaganda machines to defame socialism and promote capitalist values and practices.

'Aziz went on to say: Socialism, as any other course, neither derives its legitimacy nor shows the need for it by the mere declaration of faith in it. With regard to socialism, it can, in a way, be likened to religion. By this, I mean that for one to say that he is religious is not sufficient grounds for piety and goodness. Conduct is the real criterion of faith. In the countries of the Third World, corruption, tyranny, arbitrariness, and rigidity cannot be justified on the pretext of safeguarding socialism.

Tariq 'Aziz touched on the future of socialism, noting that criticizing these erroneous phenomena and struggling to remedy them is not always a call for embracing capitalism, especially when this criticism and struggle emanate from nationalist positions. As a matter of fact, such a thing would be a form of struggle to safeguard socialism. Similarly, it would be a necessity dictated by the need to safeguard socialism and protect it from capitalist attacks and deception.

Saddam Congratulates Gorbachev on National Day

JN0711083091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0748 GMT
7 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a congratulatory cable to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on his country's national day.

The cable reads: On the occasion of the USSR's national day, we would like to send to your excellency and to the Soviet people our best congratulations, wishing you good health and happiness, the friendly Soviet people further progress and wellbeing, and your country more prosperity.

'Eyewitnesses'—Mass Graves for Troops in Kuwait

JN0611180391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1712 GMT
6 Nov 91

[Text] Al-Basrah, 6 Nov (INA)—Arrivals from Kuwait in al-Basrah Governorate have said that U.S. troops buried groups of Iraqi soldiers alive inside Kuwaiti territory, after the latter had been besieged during withdrawal operations, when the 30-state aggression against Iraq was continuing unabated.

In statements to an INA correspondent in the governorate, they indicated that they were eyewitnesses to this horrendous crime committed by the invading U.S. troops. They affirmed that the U.S. troops, instead of

capturing the Iraqi combatants, dug mass graves for them and then proceeded to bury them alive.

The arrivals appealed to humanitarian organizations to intervene to repatriate the remains of these martyrs.

U.S. Airspace Violations Deemed 'State Terrorism'

JN0611153491 Baghdad INA in English 1345 GMT
6 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 6, INA—The English language daily 'BAGHDAD OBSERVER' said that the U.S. violations of Iraqi airspace have a new turn with U.S. and its allies warplanes breaking the sound barrier and flying at low altitude over densely-populated area, like what recently happened in Iraq's northern city of Mosul. Windows were smashed, buildings cracked, but above all the people fell victim to an unprovoked act of state terrorism.

The daily editorially stressed that Kuwait was made the Trojan horse for the execution of a premeditated war against Iraq. "The liberation of Kuwait" used to be the theme of the U.S.-led aggression but this has receded into the background of events leaving the real intentions standing stark naked before everybody's eyes.

The paper further pointed out that having failed to dismember Iraq, the Bush administration is now carrying out daily violations of Iraqi airspace. It is even abusing the U.N. mandate to send the notorious U-2 spy planes to make regular flights over Iraq. Even Israel was given the long-coveted opportunity to send its warplanes into Iraqi territories in a most blatant breach of Security Council resolutions.

The latest air violations can by no means be seen as militarily important. They are surely meant to horrify Iraqi children who have not forgotten the agony of more than 40 days of bombing. It is high time to remember that Iraqi children are in dire need of milk, medicines and sympathy and not sonic booms. There should be no more crimes against innocent civilians. Could President Bush's claim he is not against innocent Iraqis be any more believed?, the paper inquired. [punctuation as received]

Said Part of Bush Election Campaign

JN0711110591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT
7 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH asserts that U.S. violations of Iraqi airspace and attempts to terrify and alarm Iraqis only mean that Washington seeks to continue its war against Iraq and its people.

In its editorial today, the paper says the cowardly U.S. violations have no military significance and show no superiority under the circumstances of the cease-fire. Rather, these are cowardly crimes added to the black and barbaric American record of sinful aggression against the people of Iraq.

The paper says war criminal Bush has adopted aggression and its continuation against Iraq as one of the pillars of his election campaign for a second term. Through these violations, which constitute blatant infringement of the UN Charter and a serious violation of international laws, Bush continues the policy of premeditated aggression against Iraq to please the Zionist lobby.

The paper adds: In his election campaign, Bush can count on nothing better than persistence in the conspiracy against Iraq and its people, especially since the Zionist entity has sent more than one message to Bush urging him to proceed with the conspiracy against Iraq and to "finish what he started" in the aggression against Iraq.

No matter what Washington's motives behind these cowardly violations and provocations are, says the paper, we are confident that they will fail, as always, to affect the will and determination of the Iraqi people. The Iraqi people, indeed, will grow more vigilant and alert to the forthcoming U.S. schemes and conspiracies.

AL-QADISIYAH criticizes Arab and international silence on these terrorist American practices, not because they are conspiratorial, but because they are inhuman, immoral, and unethical.

It says these deliberate crimes are against the human rights which Bush and his allies crow about. They also conflict with all international conventions, and even violate the cease-fire provisions.

Concluding, the paper wonders: Why is this suspect silence, especially on the part of the United Nations? The question only highlights the tragic international situation under the shadow of U.S. hegemony.

Bush Seeks To Impose 'Capitulation' on Arabs

JN0611153091 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT
6 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 6, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily for today confirmed that the U.S. president was trying to pressure the Arab parties which attended the settlement conference held in Madrid.

The daily said in an analysis that Bush did not intend to achieve peace, but he sought to impose capitulation on the Arabs in service of the interests of the United States and its staunch ally, Israel, through liquidating the Palestinian issue.

It added that the U.S. president denied the role of the United Nations and international legitimacy in the settlement process, in an attempt to block any effort to issue a UN resolution against Israel.

The paper stressed that Madrid conference was nothing but an American investment of the results of the aggression against Iraq which was meant to camouflage the hostile acts it had taken.

Party Building Stormed To Protest Food Shortages

NC0611162491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources have said that angry masses in al-Rutbah recently stormed the headquarters of the defeated tyrant's party and the building housing the city's security agency.

The sources noted that inhabitants of the city, which is located near the western Iraqi border, assembled in front of the party headquarters to protest food shortages, price hikes, and the deteriorating security situation.

The masses, desperate because no official would talk to them, rushed the Saddamist party building and destroyed all its contents. They also attacked the security apparatus headquarters and seized important documents which incriminate the regime and disclose its crimes against the city inhabitants.

In the wake of these serious developments, the tyrant's authorities in the al-Anbar Governorate sent emergency forces to control the rebellious city. The majority of the population belong to the Kubaysah clans, of whom many were executed by the defeated regime on charges of conspiring to overthrow the regime.

Measures To Counter Economic Blockade Discussed

JN0611110491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—The Council of Ministers held an ordinary session today chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi. Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz attended the session.

The council discussed topics on its agenda relating to measures that bolster Iraq's steadfastness in the face of the unjust economic blockade imposed on our country by the United States and its allies.

Patients Strike at UN Office To Protest Embargo

JN0411174791 Baghdad INA in English 1630 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 4, INA—One hundred patients affected with chronic diseases from the residents of the governorate of al-Tamim today staged a strike in front of headquarters of the United Nations Development Program in Baghdad in protest to continuation of the inequitable economic blockade imposed on Iraq especially the food and medicinal embargo. One of the doctors accompanying the patients handed over a protest note to representative of the organisation addressed to the U.N. secretary-general on continuity of imposing the unjust blockade on the people of Iraq clarifying in it suffering of patients affected with chronic and cancerous diseases due to shortages in medicines and medical requirements the matter which threaten them of losing their lives. The U.N. representative in Baghdad has also

received a report from the doctor containing 1868 cases of death among citizens of the governorate because of various chronic diseases.

Source Refutes Kuwaiti Allegations on Detainees

JN0311193791 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 30 October 91 p 9

[By Ahmad Sabri]

[Text] The rulers imposed on Kuwait with the support of the colonialist alliance countries resort to the excuse of what they call the issue of the Kuwaiti detainees in Iraq as a pretext to harm Iraq and maintain the unjust blockade imposed on it.

ALIF BA' learned that the rulers imposed on Kuwait refused to take delivery of 3,500 detainees whose names Iraq had given to the International Red Cross. Iraq released 6,000 detainees under the supervision of the Red Cross in the past.

For its part, Iraq demonstrated its desire to end the issue of the Kuwaitis, who are on its territory, by cooperating with the envoy of the Arab League secretary general and the International Red Cross to deprive these rulers and their masters in Washington, London, and Paris of the opportunity to harm Iraq and its principled stand on this issue.

A responsible source in the Iraqi delegation that visited Geneva a few days ago told ALIF BA' that the Iraqi delegation held a series of joint meetings with the ambassador of the ruler imposed on Kuwait, the representative of Saudi Arabia, and representatives of the colonialist alliance countries. According to the same source, the talks dealt with ways to facilitate the repatriation of these detainees to Kuwait. The Iraqi delegation refuted the claims by Salim al-Sabah, the ambassador of the ruler imposed on Kuwait, during the Geneva meeting. The delegation affirmed that these claims are part of the hostile campaign against Iraq to maintain the unjust blockade against it.

ALIF BA' asked the same source in the Iraqi delegation that visited Geneva a few days ago about the allegations by the rulers imposed on Kuwait that on the basis of the list it submitted in Geneva, Iraq still holds 2,000 Kuwaitis. The source said that the Iraqi delegation replied to these allegations by producing documents in its possession that confirm that many of these detainees were released with the first batch of 6,000 detainees and that the names of many others were on the second list that Iraq submitted to these rulers who refused to receive them.

The source said all indications show that many of these detainees were killed during the colonialist alliance air raids on al-Basrah and Umm-Qasr Port as reported by the major pro-U.S. and western newspapers.

Group of 130 Iraqis, Arabs Deported From Kuwait

Arrive in Safwan 3 Nov

JN0311170591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1616 GMT
3 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—A new group of 130 Iraqis and Arabs, deported by the Kuwaiti authorities, arrived in Safwan, al-Basrah Governorate, today after their money and official papers were confiscated.

A responsible source at the International Committee of the Red Cross told INA that the committee's efforts with the Kuwaiti authorities to return 40 large trucks to their owners have failed. The trucks carried fruits and vegetables to the Kuwaiti people before the Atlantic-Zionist aggression against Iraq.

He referred to the absence of central decisionmaking in Kuwait, of security, and of cooperation with the humanitarian organizations.

It has been learned that about 50,000 people have been deported since deportation of Arab citizens from Kuwait began on 2 July.

Red Cross Sets Up Camp for Deportees

JN0611153291 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT
6 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 6, INA—The International League of the Red Cross and Crescent set up a winter camp in the southern Iraqi area of Safwan for receiving and extending relief works to Arab nationals deported from Kuwait.

Representative of the league told AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper today that the league has appointed 201 employees to undertake the international relief operations.

Shamir, Levi Agree on Negotiating Teams*TA0611193191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Nov 91*

[Report from the studio by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik —live]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levi agreed today that Foreign Ministry staffers will henceforth head two teams: the team conducting the direct negotiations with Lebanon, and the multilateral team that will conduct the negotiations seeking a solution to regional problems. They further agreed to henceforth conduct the peace process jointly. A permanent team made up of the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the defense minister will hold consultations on every political development and will make decisions.

The teams conducting the negotiations with Syria and with Jordan and the Palestinians will be changed to reflect a larger presence of Foreign Ministry staffers. The latter will also serve as acting chairmen of the two teams. As is known, the chairmen will be Shamir's men.

And what is no less certain to make the news: Shamir and Levi agreed that Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will leave the Foreign Ministry and move to the prime minister's office. He will be a deputy minister whose work will apparently focus on information issues and on representing the prime minister abroad.

As may be recalled, Levi and Netanyahu were not on speaking terms. There is no doubt that the prime minister will welcome his close confidant Netanyahu with open arms. Yitzhaq Shamir talked the matter over with Netanyahu this evening and they both agreed on the move. We should now wait and see whether the agreement between the prime minister and the foreign minister is honored and whether the climate of reconciliation lasts.

Gol Denies Venues Outside Middle East Considered*TA0611173391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1700 GMT 6 Nov 91*

[Text] Ehud Gol, the prime minister's media adviser, denied remarks attributed to him by AP whereby Israel allegedly would be willing to consider venues for the bilateral talks outside the Middle East. Gol told our correspondent Yo'el Nir that Israel persists in its position that the talks should be held in or near the Middle East; namely, in the eastern basin of the Mediterranean Sea. Gol added that additional locations near Israel would be examined in the next two weeks. Turkey and Cyprus have announced that they are ready to host the second phase of the peace talks.

Jerusalem Seeks Border Talks Site*TA0711094991 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR
in Hebrew 6 Nov 91 p 1*

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Excerpt] 'AL HAMISHMAR has learned that Jerusalem has been drafting a proposal according to which the bilateral talks with Syria will be held in the [Golan Heights] border town of al-Qunaytirah; with Lebanon in Ra's al-Naqurah; and with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in Elat and al-Aqabah. Political sources in Israel believe that the offer will not meet with any opposition because there are precedents for meetings at these locations.

At the same time, Israel is holding unofficial contacts with the Arab delegations through third parties concerning the continuation of the process and the multilateral talks. Israel is being assisted by mediating West European politicians, who in turn employ Arab politicians such as Saudi Ambassador to Washington Prince Bandar. Israel wants to resolve the problem of venue as soon as possible and set a date for the beginning of the talks in order to somewhat free itself from the feeling of suffocation from the pressing U.S. mediation. According to the letter of invitation, the peace process and the multilateral talks must start as early as the beginning of next week, and Israeli Government offices are currently preparing position papers.

The main efforts concerning the bilateral talks are focusing on the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, on the assumption that they are indeed interested in promoting the process and that if there is some movement, the Syrians and Lebanese will eventually follow suit. [passage omitted]

Official Reportedly Met With Jordan's Husayn*TA0711084991 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
7 Nov 91 p 1*

[Text] Some two weeks ago Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein disappeared for two days. Knowledgeable sources in Jerusalem believe that during those two days Rubinstein met with Jordan's King Husayn or his representative. In the meeting, it was decided that a direct and permanent communications link will be established between King Husayn and the Israeli Government, and agreements were made concerning the participation of Jordanian representatives in the autonomy talks in the framework of the Palestinian delegation.

Air Force Attacks 'Terrorist Target' in Lebanon*TA0711141391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1400 GMT 7 Nov 91*

[Text] Air Force planes attacked a terrorist target this afternoon at the al-Rashidiyah refugee camp, south of Tyre in Lebanon. All our planes returned safely. The

Israeli Army spokesman noted that the target—a base of Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front—was hit.

SLA Unit Attacks Hizballah Base 6 Nov

TA0711082491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0800 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] The Voice of the South radio station reports this morning that a South Lebanese Army [SLA] unit operated in the Shiite village of Yuhmur, north of the security zone, last night. The force returned to base before dawn, and none of its members were wounded. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports the station said that the SLA soldiers blew up a house that served as a Hizballah command center and that they are still imposing a blockade on the village.

IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA shelling increased in south Lebanon last night. An official UN Interim Force in Lebanon announcement said that more than 100 shells were fired at Shiite villages in the al-Nabatiyah and the Tuffah regions.

Lebanese radio stations reported Israeli air activity in south Lebanon, including many helicopter flights and dozens of flares fired.

Report on 'Liberty' Sinking Called 'Pure Rubbish'

TA0711113391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
7 Nov 91 p A3

[Report by Uri Nir in Washington and Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Excerpts] Columnists Evans and Novak claim that they have new evidence from a former Israeli officer on the sinking of the USS Liberty. The officer claims that the two twisted his remarks and took them out of context.

Rowland Evans and Robert Novak claim that Israel bombed the USS Liberty on 8 June 1967 although it knew that it was an American vessel. [passage omitted]

Former General Mordekhay Hod, who was the Air Force commander during the Six-Day War, called the report by Evans and Novak pure rubbish. Hod said the moment that the possibility that an American vessel might be involved arose, an immediate order was given to stop the attack.

Hod said that immediately after the bombing, the Air Force offered the Americans all materials on the incident. "We did not hide anything from them. The U.S. Navy, which investigated the event, reached the conclusion that it had been a mistake and that the IDF [Israeli Defense Force] did not attack the target knowing it was a U.S. vessel. There was nothing the Air Force did not make available to the Americans," Hod said.

According to Hod, from time to time the media brings up the issue and blames the IDF, but the charges are baseless. He pointed out that formations of Mirages and

Mistres participated in the mission, and he denied that there were any broadcasts by a pilot "begging" not to have to bomb the USS Liberty.

Reports on Maxwell Money Laundering 'Nonsense'

TA0611172191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1700 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Israel denies that Robert Maxwell laundered millions of dollars coming from the sale of weapons to Iran. This is utter nonsense, states a communique issued by the prime minister's bureau.

Druze POW Died in Israeli Captivity

TA0711061091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0500 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Police Minister Roni Milo says it can now be revealed that when Druze soldier Samih As'ad was taken captive in Lebanon, he was alive and well. Minister Milo said it was As'ad's captivity that caused his death. The police minister was speaking at a solidarity gathering with the Druze community in Daliyat al-Karmil. As'ad's body was returned during the recent efforts to secure the release of the Israelis missing in Lebanon.

Police Minister Milo called on the Druze community not to act against the law after an incident in which a vehicle from the territories was fired upon, apparently to avenge a killing last month.

Fatah Squads Uncovered in Gaza Strip

TA0611145391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1430 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] The security forces in the Gaza Strip have recently uncovered several Fatah squads numbering dozens of activists in the southern part of the Gaza Strip. The members of the squads are suspected of having perpetrated attacks against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], an Israeli civilian, and locals in the Gaza Strip.

Ezra Yanuv, our correspondent in the south, reports that the detainees are suspected of having tried to shoot and kill Amnon Yahalomi, who came to collect laborers at Morag Junction in July. They are also suspected of murdering a female resident of the strip because of suspected moral infractions and of assassinating a Khan Yunus inhabitant on suspicions of collaboration with Israel. Similarly, they violently attacked individuals and kidnapped others.

Eytan on Joint Desalination Plant With Jordan

TA0611143691 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
6 Nov 91 p A3

[Report by Ruti Heyman]

[Excerpts] Appearing before Ben-Gurion University students yesterday, Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan said that a joint Israeli-Jordanian water desalination plant is

possible. He claims the water for the desalination plant will come from the Mediterranean, thereby solving the problem of bringing the water from al-'Aqabah. According to this plan, the desalination plant will enjoy international financing and will be capable of producing 600 million cubic meters a year.

The minister added that contacts on these lines have been going on with Egypt, but he does not believe they will yield anything because the Egyptians will not agree to divert Nile water, mainly for political reasons. "They will be able to rechannel water to the Sinai and set up there one, two, or even three Palestinian states, but they are not interested in that, chiefly for political and other reasons." [passage omitted]

Referring to the possibility of importing water from Turkey, the minister said that the plan will not materialize, for political reasons, among other things. [passage omitted]

The minister said that the water problem "is no topic for discussion among the sides in the Middle East, certainly not between Jordan and Israel, as neither has water." He also said that Syria and Jordan may engage in war against the backdrop of the Syrians' stealing of water with the help of the dams they have erected on the al-Yarmuk River. "When King Husayn talked about the possibility of war, he no doubt talked about this possibility," said Eytan. [passage omitted]

PRC Denies Arms, Nuclear Sales to Iran, Arabs

TA0711143391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
7 Nov 91 p A5

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[Excerpt] Speaking to Israeli diplomats, senior Chinese administration officials have denied reports that the PRC is selling arms and military and nuclear technology to Iran and Arab countries.

Moshe Yegar, Foreign Ministry deputy director general, last month paid an official visit to the PRC at the invitation of its Foreign Ministry. Yegar said yesterday

that he and David Afek, head of the Foreign Ministry Research Division, held a discussion with their Chinese hosts, who were headed by Vice Minister Yang Fuchang and Director General Song Kun, in which the Chinese officials denied reports that China has been selling arms and nuclear know-how to countries in the region.

Referring to recent reports, citing Chinese sources, that the PRC will establish full diplomatic relations with Israel in three months, Yegar said that the Foreign Ministry has received no confirmation of the reports.

Yegar noted that the Chinese officials, in their discussions with the Israelis, said they intend to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel but that the time for this has not yet been determined. In the current stage it has been decided that trade links between the two countries will be strengthened. The Chinese have even expressed a willingness to send cultural performances to Israel, but they lack the finances to do so. [passage omitted]

Delegation Pays 'Official Visit' to Angola

TA0611142991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
6 Nov 91 p A1

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[Excerpt] A delegation of Israeli businessmen and industrialists, led by Colette Avital, the Israeli ambassador to Portugal, recently led an official visit to Angola.

The delegation met with senior Angolan Government officials and discussed the possibility of investing in the country and commercial and economic cooperation between Israeli companies and the Angolan Government. Sources in Jerusalem estimated that the Angolan Government's readiness to host the delegation signals its desire to renew diplomatic relations with Israel.

The sources yesterday noted that past experience shows that economic ties eventually pave the way to the establishment of diplomatic relations between countries. The visit is the first of its kind by an Israeli delegation to Angola since the coming to power of a Cuban-backed Marxist regime. Cuba even dispatched forces to participate in the Angolan civil war until up to three years ago. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Believes in 'Possibility of Peace'

PM0711101091 Paris LE MONDE in French
7 Nov 91 p 4

[By Jean-Pierre Langellier: "King Husayn Still Envisages Jordanian-Palestinian Confederation"]

[Text] Amman—In the first few "post-Madrid" days, King Husayn of Jordan seems happy. At the age of 56, of which "38 have been spent in active service"—an expression he likes—the king has rarely seemed so confident of the future. He was relaxed and smiling on Tuesday 5 November when he received 12 European journalists invited by the United Nations in his private apartments on Amman's greenest hillside.

Perhaps for the first time since the start of his long turbulent reign, the Hashemite king believes in the possibility of peace and is saying so. Accompanied by Queen Nur, his wife, at whom he glanced for confirmation now and then, Husayn stressed the achievements—and savored the promise—of this Israeli-Arab conference which he described as "magnificent."

"We are a very long way," he said, "from where we were before the process which led to Madrid started. I am very happy that after all these years the Palestinian problem should finally be receiving the attention it deserves. Moreover, we are living in an exciting time, the promising start of an era in which old mental barriers may collapse, in which fears, doubts, and suspicions can be dispelled. I am proud that Jordan is playing an active role in that process. We are fully committed to serving a just and lasting peace. The peoples of the region feel involved. For the first time, they are glimpsing the possibility of a completely different world from the one in which they were living. The overwhelming majority of Jordanians sincerely want the progress to continue."

Fraught with misunderstandings, splits, and even tragedies—such as the violent confrontation of Black September (1970)—relations between Amman and the PLO are now as serene as possible. By renouncing all sovereignty over the West Bank in the summer of 1988, King Husayn has made possible the close Jordanian-Palestinian political cooperation established before Madrid.

Dual Nationality

"The joint delegation which we sent to the conference worked very well. I am happy to have moved a little closer to the Palestinians and to defend their cause." For King Husayn, it goes without saying that Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, according to the generally accepted interpretation of Security Council Resolution 242 should, when the time comes, make possible the advent of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

Second, the king predicted, "the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation will be a very strong possibility." And, he suggested, why should the

Palestinians not then have "dual nationality," just as a Jew can now be both an Israeli and an American citizen?

What about Jerusalem? For a long time the reconquest of the Al-Aqsa mosque—Islam's third holiest place where his grandfather 'Abdallah was assassinated before his eyes in 1951—was, in King Husayn's mind, alone enough to justify continuing to demand the West Bank lost in 1967.

The king, who, like all those involved in the conflict, is aware that Jerusalem's fate can only be settled in the final stage, is refraining from proposing a solution at this stage. He simply said that the holy city's future will have to be decided "above political considerations" and will have to "represent the essence, the symbol of peace."

The king not only wants the bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Arab delegations to start "very soon" but also for them to be held at the same time as the multilateral discussions among all the countries in the region. "Some time ago," he said, "I thought that these discussions should only start once the peace process was well under way. I now think that the two series of preliminary talks should be conducted simultaneously. Indeed, the regional negotiations will be an additional stimulus. They will enable everybody to anticipate and imagine a common future, to think beyond the present difficulties to what the Near East could be once peace has been restored."

Failure Would Be a 'Disaster'

"There will be so many problems to be solved," the king continued. "We must share water resources, safeguard energy sources, protect the environment, and rid ourselves of weapons of mass destruction. Only peace will make it possible to tackle all these tasks. We have no other choice. We have lost so much time and money in fighting each other. The region needs security and stability. But real peace goes further than mere security. It presupposes the eradication of fear from people's hearts and minds."

The king admitted that the process "will require a great deal of efforts" and "will be lengthy" but, he hopes, "not too lengthy." What if they fail sooner or later? "That would encourage extremists everywhere. It would be a disaster for the coming generations, and we cannot afford that. I do not want to minimize the danger which the extremists pose—extremists who are always prepared to establish unnatural alliances to thwart peace. There are people who have a great deal of difficulty in adapting to reality and abandoning their dream, but I am confident."

The king is probably thinking about his own oppositionists. A month ago, the Muslim Brotherhood, hostile to the peace process, formed an expedient alliance in parliament (which is in recess until 1 December) with Arab nationalists and a group of conservatives who are dissatisfied over being left out and are calling for the resignation of Palestinian-born Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri.

This unrest is the price of the democratization of the Kingdom which has been going on since the November 1988 parliamentary elections.

Peace in the region and democracy at home: This could be the Hashemite king's slogan. Husayn says he shares this twofold aspiration with the Palestinians. "Democracy and pluralism are a major challenge. I want the Jordanians and Palestinians to be able to set a modest example." Dreaming of democracy for his neighbors and referring to his recent speech to the European Parliament, he added: "I was very moved to address it, but also a little sad. I hope that one day soon I will be able to address an Arab parliament."

Further on Visit of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat

Reviews Madrid Talks With al-Masri

JN0611131091 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri met with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, at the Prime Ministry this morning.

During the meeting, which was attended by senior Jordanian and Palestinian officials, they reviewed the results of the Madrid peace conference and the prospects for the peace process. The Madrid conference provided an opportunity for the Arabs, the Palestinians in particular, to present their case before the world. It also consolidated the peoples' convictions about the desire for peace based on justice and international legitimacy.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the good Arab performance at the peace conference, particularly the level of coordination and cooperation between the two sides of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, which succeeded in presenting the just case of the Palestinian people in such an honorable manner.

The meeting also dealt with the means to continue cooperation between Jordan and Palestine throughout the diverse stages of the peace process in a way that would attain the common objectives.

On the Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by Dr. Qasim 'Ubaydat, minister of state for cabinet affairs and acting labor minister; Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, minister of culture and higher education; Jamal al-Khurrayshah, minister of state; and Mahmud al-Sharif, minister of information.

On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by PLO Executive Committee members Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, 'Abdallah Hurani, Sulayman al-Najjab, Yasir 'Amr, and Ilya Khuri, as well as al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador in Amman; and Bassam 'Abu-Sharif, political adviser to 'Arafat.

Meets King Husayn; al-Sharif Comments

JN0611125291 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordan's monarch King Husayn today received PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who had earlier held talks with Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri to assess the outcome of the first round of peace talks. 'Arafat did not make any statement following his meeting with al-Masri. In a statement on arrival in Amman yesterday however, he said the meetings of the Madrid conference were in accordance with the Palestinian and Arab standards.

Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif said that the Jordanian-Palestinian talks dealt with what has so far been achieved during the peace talks, in addition to relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

In a statement to journalists, al-Sharif noted that the Jordanian and Palestinian sides expressed satisfaction with the Arab delegations' performance in Madrid and described this performance as excellent, particularly regarding coordination between the two sides of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

After stressing that Jordan will go ahead with the negotiations, the Jordanian minister said that the venue for holding bilateral negotiations is still under discussion. He pointed out that his country does not oppose Washington as a venue if the other Arab parties agree.

Members of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and its committees are expected to arrive in Amman today. Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri will receive them at the airport. Informed sources ruled out 'Arafat's meeting with the members of the Palestinian delegation to avoid giving Israel a pretext to boycott the negotiations.

Further on al-Sharif Remarks

JN0611162891 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1520 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Report on comments made by Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif to unidentified correspondents in Amman on 6 November]

[Excerpt] Amman, 6 Nov (PETRA)—[passage omitted] Asked if there were any developments regarding the bilateral talks with Israel and their date and venue, Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif said the subject is under discussion by the parties to the peace conference and the cosponsors—the United States and the Soviet Union. He said no final agreement has been reached on the venue, but contacts will continue among the concerned parties to specify a venue where the talks can resume.

Asked if Jordan accepts Washington as a venue for the bilateral talks, the information minister said Jordan does

not object to holding the bilateral talks in Washington, provided the other Arab parties also agree.

He pointed out that in the coming phase, the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will split into two parts: one for Jordanian-Israeli talks and one for Palestinian-Israeli talk. Each side of the delegation will have its own agenda. He stressed, however, coordination and cooperation between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides will continue.

Regarding the building of settlements in the occupied territories, the information minister said: All Arab parties are very concerned about the continued drive to build settlements because this threatens the peace process as a whole. He added that there will be a serious discussion of the issue of the settlements in the next set of talks because this is very important issue and should be given priority. He said the Arab sides are very concerned about halting the settlements. He stressed the need to find a solution to the issue as there is no reason to continue talks if building settlements continues.

More on Talks With King, Crown Prince

JN0611151191 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn received Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan at al-Nadwah Palace at noon today.

During the meeting, they assessed the peace process and the initial results of the Madrid conference. His majesty and president 'Arafat also exchanged viewpoints on the requirements of the coming stage of the peace process.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri; al-Sharif Zayid Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; and 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, political adviser to his majesty the king.

On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended PLO Executive Committee members His Beatitude Bishop Ilya Khury, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, 'Abdallah Hurani, Sulayman al-Najjab, and Yasir 'Amr, in addition to Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to president 'Arafat; and Palestinian Ambassador to Amman al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim.

Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri met with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, at the Prime Ministry this morning. [passage omitted]

In statements to journalists following the meeting, Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif stressed that coordination between the Jordanian and the Palestinian sides will continue on the various issues, and that this coordination has been agreed for a long time.

On the possibility of convening an Arab summit, al-Sharif said: Such an issue was not discussed in today's meeting. He explained that there are Arab sides that are

exerting efforts in this regard. He said: We and the Palestinian brothers greatly welcome any meeting at the summit level to study the rebuilding of the Arab household that was affected during the Gulf war.

Concludes Visit, Departs 6 Nov

JN0611210991 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 2103 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat left Amman this afternoon following a two-day visit to Jordan, during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and held talks with Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri.

He was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, a number of senior Jordanian officials, and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman and the embassy staff.

Foreign Minister Abu-Jabir Returns to Amman

JN0611184591 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] This evening, Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir returned to Amman. He led the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace talks and the Jordanian delegation to the economic cooperation talks with the EC, which were held in Brussels.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, Abu-Jabir said that the Madrid conference constitutes a good start to the process of achieving a comprehensive peace in the region, on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

King Meets Joint Delegation

JN0611191391 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1805 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn was at the reception of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation as they arrived in Amman today, after participating in the Madrid peace conference and the bilateral talks which followed between Arab delegations and Israel. Also present were the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, the king's political adviser, the chief chamberlain, the king's military secretary, the Palestinian ambassador in Amman, and the embassy staff.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali headed the Jordanian side of the joint delegation, while the Palestinian side was headed by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi.

In statements to our political affairs correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab and to a group of journalists, Dr. al-Majali, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, member of the Advisory Council for the Palestinian side, spoke about their impressions of the conference and the coming stage of the talks.

[Begin recording] [Dhiyab] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam, what is your assessment of the conference and of the direct talks?

[Al-Majali] In terms of its formation and presence, I believe that this conference is unprecedented. No such conference, with so much momentum, has been convened throughout history, particularly in terms of the immense and distinguished global media coverage. This is something new. The most important thing I noticed during the conference was that the Palestinian question—people and land—was out in the open. The Palestinian question—people and land—entered every house, was seen by every eye, and was heard by every ear throughout the world. I believe this is quite remarkable.

At the same time, the Jordanian identity was highlighted because of the presence of both the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations. And here we refuted, if not buried, the Israeli theory that Jordan is Palestine. These two matters were made very clear.

[Dhiyab] Dr. Haydar, what is your assessment of the performance of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation at the conference?

[Abd-al-Shafi] The performance was very good. The Jordanian-Palestinian delegation was highlighted. There is no doubt that this was everybody's impression; it will set a course for the future.

[Dhiyab] Dr. Haydar, what was the overall Palestinian experience, since this was the first time in history that Palestinians attended such a conference?

[Abd-al-Shafi] Everybody knows we went with all possible sincerity to contribute to making a just and lasting peace, on the basis of the UN resolutions, to achieve the Palestinian rights to self-determination, and to establish an independent state, as well as the rights of the refugees provided for by UN resolutions.

As I have said, we went there with all sincerity. I believe the beginning step was a success, which should now encourage us to proceed and build on this positive stage.

[Dhiyab] Dr. Abd-al-Salam, what are the features of the coming stage, the venue and date?

[Al-Majali] The venue and date have not yet been set. I, however, that the talks will resume within the next two or three weeks. We do not know yet.

[Dhiyab] What will characterize the coming stage?

[Al-Majali] The talks will begin with some procedural sessions and then move on to the regular agenda. There will be a Palestinian-Israeli agenda, and a Jordanian-Israeli agenda, in addition to the continuous coordination which will take place when there are common issues with the Palestinian brothers.

[Ashrawi] With regard to the bilateral talks, we began the long and difficult march, that is, the political battle which requires preparation, endurance, follow-up, and great efforts. We should not expect quick results. We know Israel always begins with the most intransigent and hard-line position; it tries to impose its will. Now, we are

sitting at the same table on an equal basis, as a people who have internationally recognized national rights. We are trying to seize the rights from the Israelis through law and argument. Therefore, we should continue to exert efforts and to work continuously and accurately on all levels of this political battle. I believe that with Palestinian determination and with the power of argument and justice, we will reach our objective. [end recording]

Al-Sharif on Peace Commitment, U.S. Initiative

JN0511184291 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1540 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Amman, 5 Nov (PETRA)—Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif has said that peace is a battle in the full sense of the word. It involves weapons, strategy, and detailed plans. Just like military battles, it has means of attack, retreat, and maneuvering, in addition to support and mobilization with the aim of strengthening the domestic front behind the negotiators to enable them attain the cherished objective.

In an open dialogue on "Jordan and the Peace Battle" organized by the General Secretariat of the Arab Youth Forum held last night, the information minister reviewed the stages of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He stressed that the current historic stage the Arab nation is experiencing is no more than a one milestone in the long history of the nation and that each generation acts in accordance with the situation at its time. [passage omitted]

Within this context, the minister indicated that the new international situation produced a clear concentration on resolving regional problems, which used to induce competition between East and West. He gave as an example the cooperation to resolve the problems in Angola, South Africa, Afghanistan, and Cambodia. This clearly reveals that we are facing immense international changes that we must utilize to our benefit.

Regarding an international situation that tries to formulate the future of the Middle East, it is unwise for a country such as Jordan to act as if it is in no way concerned with the issue.

The minister brought to mind the clear commitment U.S. President George Bush expressed in his speech before the U.S. Congress last March to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict based on international legitimacy. The minister explained that this firm commitment by the U.S. Administration was one of the important factors that encouraged Jordan to enter the peace battle along the lines of the other Arab parties, which have been collectively calling, since the late 70's in all the Arab summits, for a peaceful solution to the conflict based on the principle of exchanging land for peace.

The minister of information wondered: If the entire world, along with the Arab countries and the Palestinians, wants a political solution, then can Jordan, which is

directly affected by what takes place to the west of the Jordan River, adopt a neutral position vis-a-vis the peace process?

The minister also wondered how can anyone believe that Jordan would not take part in this international effort after His Majesty King Husayn himself helped to draft Resolution 242. [passage omitted]

Meets UN Media Team, Discusses Peace

JN0611205891 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic: 1600 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Excerpt] During a meeting with the international media team currently visiting Jordan, Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif said he hopes a comprehensive and just settlement to the Arab-Israeli and the Palestinian-Israeli conflicts can be achieved. Our correspondent for political affairs, Nimr al-Adwan, has the details.

[Begin recording] [Al-Adwan] Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif has asserted that Jordan's participation in the peace process, and continuing that participation, is in harmony with its position, which is based on international legitimacy and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of land for peace. During a meeting with the media team dispatched by the United Nations, the minister expressed the hope that a comprehensive, just, and durable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict can be achieved so that the people of the region can live in peace.

[Al-Sharif, in English] We're willing to go along with the peace process as long as it takes, but on the basis of international legality, the implementation of Resolution 242, the restoration of the political rights of the Palestinians, and the evacuation of the occupied territories by the Israeli troops. This is our wish, this is our desire, this is our determination. But, of course, there are many players here. We hope everybody will have the same feeling and the same determination, the same courage to move forward and to shed old, mythical, or mythological attitudes and live in reality. Israel will always remain a small country in an ocean of Arab nations.

[Al-Adwan] The minister reviewed with the media team the problems and difficulties Jordan is facing as a result of the Gulf crisis and the Gulf war, which left deep wounds for many people in the region. He stressed that Jordan is trying to overcome those difficulties and heal the rift caused by the war among the fraternal Arab states.

[Al-Sharif, in English] So, we are facing difficulty, definitely. As a result of the Gulf war, our relationship with some Western countries has been strained to a certain extent. Now, we are restoring this. We are trying to reach out to our brothers in the Gulf and in other countries. There are some encouraging signs, but it is not up to our expectation. We are determined to keep moving in that direction. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Opinion Poll Says 96 Percent Support Peace

JN0611090191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
6 Nov 91 p 1

[Dr. Musa al-Kilani article: "The Rejectionists Are Not Heroes"]

[Text] According to an opinion poll that was recently conducted in Jordan, 96 percent of Jordanians support the peace drive and bless the initiative that led to the Madrid conference on 30 October 1991.

AL-DUSTUR will soon publish details of this opinion poll that scientifically surveyed wide sectors of public opinion with its various groups and professions.

It is noteworthy that citizens feel that their delegation went to Madrid at a time when Jordan is in its strongest position at the pan-Arab level following the events of last year.

The sons of this country feel that their representatives attended the meetings at the Spanish royal palace at a point when Jordan is in its strongest internal position. It is also in its strongest position with regard to the Palestine question after the disengagement decision gave the people of Palestine the chance to define their political identity and the ability to confront Israeli maneuvers. It also helped them to formulate the political method they should adopt in the international arena.

The momentum of the strong Jordanian position gave the delegation in Madrid the strength to act with courageous positiveness, clarity, and resourcefulness that were characterized by dignity, objectivity, and efficiency. Perhaps these factors led to the popular response to the spirit of peace at this high percentage, 96.

But what is left for the minority that rejects peace to say? Attending the conference is not capitulation, and the negative rejection, which merely observes what is going on, is not heroism or chivalry. Negotiations are necessary for establishing peace. Even if there are wars they should be followed by negotiations.

It was a pan-Arab gain to be able to state Arab principles and the justice of the Palestine question as heard and seen at the highest international stage that should not be left for Israel to play on alone.

The world has changed, the concept of force has changed, and a new world order has emerged in which it is not heroic to reject everything and to hide incompetence by leveling charges against those who accepted the difficult challenge and faced the conflict with their thoughts, diplomacy, and wisdom, and employed the international trend with the aim of restoring rights to their owners so as to rescue the coming generations.

Islamic Movement: Stand on Government Unchanged*JN0711094791 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
7 Nov 91 p 26*

[Text] Amman—Deputy Engineer Ahmad Qutaysh al-Azayidah, official spokesman for the Islamic Movement deputies, has stated that the Movement's deputies will not participate in Tahir al-Masri's government, or in any government that supports the so-called peace conference, and that this stand is final.

In reply to a question by AL-RA'Y, al-Azayidah said that the Movement's stand toward the present government remains unchanged.

Eng. al-Azayidah's statements were made in the wake of the meeting at the Prime Ministry yesterday morning between al-Masri and Islamic Movement deputies Yusuf al-'Azm, Dr. 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah, and Eng. Ahmad al-Azayidah.

Al-Azayidah said the Islamic Movement's deputies will continue to closely follow the government's policies, whether or not it changes them.

Al-Azayidah said the meeting he and his colleagues held with the prime minister yesterday was a continuation of a meeting with the prime minister last Saturday that was attended by Islamic Movement deputies Yusuf al-'Azm, Dr. 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah, Dr. Hammam Sa'id, Dr. Muhammad Abu-Faris, Hamzah Mansur, and Ahmad al-Azayidah. He said the purpose of this meeting was to follow up on public issues dealing with public liberties, citizens' issues, the official media's position on the opposition, especially on matters related to the peace conference. The discussions also dealt with the State Security Court issue.

Al-Azayidah said that the prime minister affirmed to them that the government will not interfere in the press or in cases submitted for trial by the State Security Court.

No 'Premature Normalization' With Israel Stressed*JN0711093391 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
7 Nov 91 pp 1, 22*

[Editorial: "No Premature Normalization"]

[Text] It is now clear that Israeli contentions on the venue of the second stage of the peace talks are an attempt to obtain premature normalization gains from the Arabs. The prime minister has stressed that Israel will not receive such gains. It is noticed that the Israeli propaganda machine yesterday persisted in casting doubt over Jordan's commitment to this position. Radio Israel in its 1730 newscast yesterday promised listeners it would contact a member of the Jordanian delegation after its return to Amman. We can assert that this promise will not be fulfilled because Jordan will not give Israel any premature normalization gains and because the dialogue on procedural matters that took place in Madrid will not be accompanied by information normalization or normalization in any other fields.

It is also noticed that while the Israeli propaganda machine is launching this distortion campaign, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi is launching a campaign of lies against sisterly Syria and another campaign of machinations to split the Palestinian ranks, claiming that the Palestinian negotiating team is an alternative Palestinian leadership! This is in addition to the escalation by Israeli officials of the provocative settlement practices as seen in the building of a new settlement in the Golan and their personal participation in the opening ceremony! It is obvious that all elements of this negative response indicate that the Israeli mentality remains the same. It has not yet absorbed the requirements for peace. These Israeli practices also aim to depict Jordan as holding the door open to normalization and being unconcerned about the Israeli provocations of the Syrians, Palestinians, and Lebanese. Needless to say, this is completely untrue. Jordan is very aware of all Israeli practices and is committed to strong coordination with all Arab parties and to not giving the Israelis any premature normalization gains.

Therefore, Israeli officials must abandon distortion, machinations, and provocations, because they are not in harmony with the peace process and because they will never succeed in splitting Arab ranks, just as they will never succeed in splitting Palestinian ranks. Moreover, the officials themselves must be certain that they will not get any premature normalization gains from Jordan or any other Arab party.

Al-Hirawi Briefs Cabinet on Madrid Talks

NC0611221791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
2015 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi briefed the cabinet today on the Higher Defense Council's decisions, the outcome of the second round of Madrid talks, 'ed by Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan, and the agreement reached with the Israeli delegation on the future venue of the meetings.

The cabinet approved an article to send a delegation to the Francophone conference, which will be led by President al-Hirawi, and an article allocating 5 billion Lebanese pounds to the south Lebanon council. It studied the economic situation and ways to increase revenue, and formed a committee to settle the port's problems.

Ministers Cite 'Shortcomings' in Madrid

NC0711072591 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Excerpt] At its meeting yesterday, the cabinet discussed the upcoming phase of the peace talks. President Ilyas al-Hirawi said the Israeli delegation informed the Lebanese delegation that Israel does not covet Lebanese water or territory. The Israeli delegation proposed that the negotiations be held without a mediator. The Lebanese delegation's reply was that Lebanon's territory is occupied and that Lebanon insists that the talks be continued in Madrid. If no agreement can be reached on the venue of the talks, it will be up to the United States and the Soviet Union to decide.

President al-Hirawi said the Israeli side demanded that Lebanon sign a peace treaty with Israel. The Lebanese delegation demanded the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, indicating that Lebanon adheres to Arab solidarity.

Some ministers indicated that the Lebanese delegation committed some shortcomings in Madrid. The president answered that the delegation acted according to the instructions it received from Beirut, but some ministers continued to insist that there were shortcomings.

President al-Hirawi briefed the cabinet on the outcome of his visit to Latakia, saying he briefed the Syrian president on his talks in Paris and Rome. [passage omitted]

Buwayz: Instability Jeopardizes Peace Process

NC0711122691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1130 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz affirmed today that implementation of UN Resolution 425 must be the starting point for the resumption of the peace process in the region. In a statement he made in Paris, he added that the unstable situation in Lebanon jeopardizes the peace process in the area. He accused the Israeli enemy of aggravating the situation in the south to improve its position in the negotiations.

Buwayz denied reports that implementation of Resolution 425 will be among the first tangible results of the peace conference. He said that a settlement of the south Lebanon problem reinforces the credibility of the cosponsors of the conference, the United States and the Soviet Union and even Israel, and will constitute a guarantee of goodwill.

Prime Minister Says Resolution 425 'Nonnegotiable'

NC0511203991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
2000 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has emphasized that Lebanon sees Resolution 425 as a nonnegotiable issue, adding that the Lebanese delegation to the Madrid peace conference called for an immediate and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the south.

The prime minister said that the delegation was officially instructed to confine the bilateral negotiations within the framework of the armistice signed between Lebanon and Israel in 1946.

'Intensive' Israeli Overflights Reported in South

NC0711060691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0415 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Israeli warplanes and helicopters have conducted intensive flights over al-Naqurah and Tyre along the coast and as far as Mount Hermon and the al-Nabatiyah suburbs, dropping scores of illumination flares.

AFP correspondents have reported that the low-altitude flights started at 2000 yesterday and lasted until a late hour. In the meantime, Israeli gunboats were cruising off the Lebanese shore.

Flights Over Beirut Noted

NC0711104391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1015 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Israeli warplanes overflew the south and Beirut this morning, breaking the sound barrier. At approximately 1000 today, Israeli artillery shelled Kafr Tibnit village. A crossing point between the central sector and the border zone was closed.

Israeli Shelling Continues

NC0711092991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0900 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Israeli enemy aircraft have continued to fly over Iqlim al-Tuffah amid heavy artillery shelling. The shelling reached its peak at midnight last night when shells fell at the rate of three every five minutes, particularly in the areas of Jba', 'Ayn Qana, and 'Ayn Bu Siwar.

A spokesman of the agent Lahd forces today admitted that these forces entered Yuhmur village at dawn today, blew up one of the houses, and led its owner into the border strip area. Security sources said that the forces which entered the village consisted of 50 soldiers and 10 military vehicles.

This aggression was accompanied by heavy artillery shelling of al-Nabatiyah and the surrounding villages. More than 40 shells fell on the approaches of 'Ayn al-Tinah and the outskirts of Mashgharah and Maydun in western al-Biq'a'.

Government Sends Protest to UN

NC0711065091 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Lebanon has submitted a complaint to the United Nations protesting Israeli military activity in southern Lebanon. In a letter to the UN secretary general, Lebanese UN Representative Khalil Makkawi said Israel's policy against his country confirms its aggressive intentions toward Lebanon and its desire to obstruct the ongoing efforts to establish peace in the region.

Resistance Attacks Israeli, Militia Targets

NC0611172291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1630 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Israeli attacks in the south have abated but have not stopped completely. Fear and caution prevail in Qabrikha, Tulin, and Majdal Silm. Occupation forces shelled residential areas in Haddathah and Haris, firing approximately 25 shells at midday.

The Irish contingent of the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon was placed on alert after a checkpoint belonging to it on the western approach to Haddathah was hit by an enemy shell at 1300.

AFP said that an armed group attacked a position of the agent Lahd's militia in Haddathah. It cited security sources in the south as saying that an unidentified armed group opened machine-gun and anti-tank-weapon fire on a Lahd militia position in Haddathah at noon today. The agency did not give further details.

In addition, reports from the central sector in the south indicate that resistance fighters detonated an explosive device under a military truck belonging to the agent Lahd's militia on the road leading to the Rshaf position this morning. The resistance men then carried out an attack against this position with machine guns and rockets.

According to reports, the truck was carrying weapons and ammunition. A fire broke out in the position and the sound of explosions continued until 1200.

The Islamic Resistance claimed responsibility for the operation. In a statement carried by REUTERS, the resistance announced that the explosive device was detonated under a foot patrol consisting of occupation troops and members of Lahd's militia. The statement added that three members of the patrol were either killed or wounded.

Hizballah Source on Sharon, Threats Against Party

NC0711080691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] A responsible Hizballah source has commented on Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon's demand to expand the occupied border zone and on senior Zionist officers' new threats against Hizballah.

The source said: We heard a number of enemy leaders in the past few days foaming with anger, so much so that they poured their anger on civilian sites and defenseless villages. We want to stress that these threats, coupled with the special information that the enemy planned and is planning to target Hizballah officials and leaders, will not dissuade us from fulfilling our legitimate commandment and our jihad against the brutal enemy which occupied our lands and usurped our rights.

The Hizballah source added: We believe that these cries reveal the enemy's cowardice and weakness, because standing up to the resistance cannot be achieved by seeking revenge against defenseless civilians. We were not surprised by Sharon's call for expanding the occupied zone, because we are aware and certain of the nature of the Zionists' aggressive and expansionist intentions. His call refutes all the claims about the success of diplomatic contacts and political mediations in bringing Israel to withdraw from Lebanon once resistance operations against it end and resistance fighters are disarmed.

In this regard, we were taken aback by Samir Ja'ja's shedding of false tears over the people of the south, because we do not forget that he and the Lahd cliques are in the same boat and share the same beliefs. Under these beliefs, attempts were made in the past, and are still being made, to turn the Lebanese arena into a breeding ground for the occupier and to mortgage the Lebanese political decision to the Zionist will and influence. We emphasize here that Ja'ja is the last one to speak about the south, because the south's political and military tragedy is nothing but an offspring of political and military Maronism, which acted as a substitute for the occupying enemy and the hostile foreign powers during the Lebanese events.

We also call on the Lebanese Government to take a firm position regarding the increasing and escalating Zionist aggressions and threats. This position must not fall short of walking out of the peace negotiations, particularly since the government possesses a strong argument and adequate evidence of the continuation of the aggressive intentions and of the futility of any negotiations. These negotiations are not the suitable means for preventing the Zionist acts of aggression, as is proved by the current situation.

Paper Says U.S. Can Clear Shamir's 'Minefields'

PM0611151891 London AL-HAYAT in Arabic
3 Nov 91 p 11

[George Sam'an article: "Shamir's Conference Offensive"]

[Text] Whatever the differences over procedural matters relating to the venue for bilateral negotiations between the parties to the Middle East conflict and the agenda for such negotiations, the U.S. sponsor is capable of clearing the minefields laid by Yitzhaq Shamir before getting down to the essentials; namely, the discussion of steps connected with ending the occupation and giving the Palestinians their legitimate political rights.

Since all the Arab parties have agreed that all secondary procedural issues should be overcome to allow discussion of the core of the conflict and ways of resolving it, they have no mines to lay. It is no exaggeration to say that they would have no mines to lay and no means of exerting pressure in pursuit of their objectives at the conference when the time comes for "taking" from Israel. They would have to surrender, which they cannot possibly do, or leave the conference, if the U.S. sponsor maintains its declared position of not intervening by imposing a solution or a settlement.

However, the U.S. Administration, which is aware of this fact, knows in advance that it would have to abandon its promise not to intervene to chart or impose a solution on the Israeli side before anyone else, but if it did not intervene it would mean that it was giving in to Shamir by keeping the Middle East in a state of neither war nor peace, or, at worst, it would mean giving him a free hand to create a new regional order based on taking on one Arab side or more at a time during future negotiations—that is, if the conference does not grind to a complete halt and is not suspended.

What happened during the Gulf war, and, after that, during Secretary Baker's Middle East shuttles—ranging from the prevention of Israeli intervention in the war against Iraq to Israel's defeat in the battle for guarantees—proves beyond any doubt that President Bush's administration is determined that it, and nothing else, will forge the new regional order, because it wants to strengthen the U.S. strategic, economic, and political position in this Arab region and build on what it has achieved as a result of the Soviet retreat and Iraq's defeat. It cannot allow Shamir to be the top major player in the region, even though he may be a player ahead of his Arab counterparts. Otherwise, it would be admitting that Israel is not only a regional superpower but also an international superpower. Could it possibly accept that, when it declares every day that it, the United States, is the only world leader under the new order?

The U.S. Administration knows that Israel can no longer use blackmail as it did during the cold war, when the Soviet Union and its allies were on the Arab side. It told Shamir,

through its stance on the loan guarantees, that it is President Bush, and nobody else, who formulates U.S. policy.

This simply means that when the negotiations begin, the U.S. sponsor of the conference will become an essential negotiator and an effective partner superior to all the rest. It will be the negotiator facing Shamir and his delegation. That sponsor may some day have to prove, as it did on the loan guarantees issue, that it is capable of thwarting Israeli attempts to obstruct the conference, blackmail its sponsors, or even torpedo it, and that it is capable of stopping Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon, which cannot fail to be seen clearly as an attack on the conference itself before the actual negotiations begin, to put pressure on and to terrorize all the negotiators, participants, and observers.

UNIFIL Spokesman on Depopulation in South

NC0511102591 (*Clandestine Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon* 1000 GMT 5 Nov 91)

[Text] Timor Goksel, spokesman of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], said an investigation has established that the explosion near the Nepalese contingent's position in Yatar on 31 October was aimed at that contingent.

Goksel noted that as a result of the recent developments in the south, 75 percent of the inhabitants of Tibnin, Haddathah, and 'Ayta al-Jabal; 40 percent of the inhabitants of Qabrikha; 80 percent of Bra'shit's inhabitants, and 60 percent of the inhabitants of Tulin and Shaqra have left their towns.

UK Official Meets With Birri, Discusses South

NC0511094591 (*Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic* 0530 GMT 5 Nov 91)

[Text] David Gore-Booth, British assistant under secretary for Middle East affairs, has inspected the areas where the UN Interim Force in Lebanon is operating in the south.

Before leaving for the south, Gore-Booth visited State Minister Attorney Nabih Birri and Foreign Ministry Secretary General Suhayl Shammās. They reviewed the situation in the south.

Minister Birri said: We briefed the British guest on the south and the suffering of its people. I used the opportunity to thank Britain for its stand on the need for the unconditional implementation of Resolution 425.

Gore-Booth emphasized his country's stand of supporting the steps the Lebanese Government is taking and the implementation of Resolution 425. He said that Britain hopes that this resolution will be implemented immediately without its being linked to the peace conference.

Meets With al-Hirawi, al-Husayni

NC0511105691 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic*
1000 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi today met with David Gore-Booth, British assistant under secretary for Middle East affairs, who was accompanied by British Ambassador to Lebanon David Tatham. They reviewed the current developments.

Gore-Booth then went to the Chamber of Deputies and met with Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni. They reviewed the situation in the south and bilateral relations.

Gore-Booth reiterated his country's view that Resolution 425 must be implemented in the south. He affirmed that his country participates in the international aid to Lebanon through the European Community and that the hostage issue will not affect this aid.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives, Praises Syrian Support

JN0711061591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic
Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Damascus last night. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the director of the PLO office in Damascus.

'Arafat told SANA he is happy to visit Damascus in the wake of the Madrid peace conference. He said Syria expressed a pan-Arab position through Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's speech, which exposed Israel's arrogance. 'Arafat praised the good coordination among the Arab delegations and said: We must come to Damascus to coordinate with our brothers in Syria, especially President Hafiz al-Asad, concerning the difficult road we have chosen to achieve a just peace in the region. We will continue our consultations now and in the future to restore Arab rights, foremost of which is holy Jerusalem, and to liberate occupied Arab and Palestinian lands.

'Arafat is accompanied by PLO Executive Committee members Yasir 'Amr, 'Abdallah Hurani, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

Received by Vice President Khaddam

JN0711101091 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0945 GMT
7 Nov 91

[Text] Damascus, 7 Nov (SANA)—At 0830 today 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, the vice president, received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and his delegation comprising Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, 'Abdallah Hurani, Yasir 'Amr, and Mahmud al-Khalidi.

They discussed the course of the peace conference in Madrid and the means to achieve coordination and cooperation between the Arab delegations.

Meets With President al-Asad

JN0711113191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic
Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] At 1100 today His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the delegation accompanying him which comprises Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Yasir 'Amr, 'Abdallah Hurani, Mahmud al-Khalidi, and Ahmad al-Shihabi.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting.

Editorial Decries Call for 'Reciprocal Concessions'

JN0711111991 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT
7 Nov 91

[Text] Damascus, 7 Nov (SANA)—In today's editorial, AL-BA'TH says that moderation means precisely abiding by a real, just, and comprehensive peace and the forceful and firm defense of rights, international law, and legitimacy, and the resolutions adopted by the international community. Sticking to this moderation is first and foremost in the interest of international legitimacy and a comprehensive and just peace, for this eases tension and stops wars.

The paper adds that those who call for reciprocal concessions from the aggressor and the victim turn things upside down, distort facts, and violate international legitimacy and the principles of international law.

The paper adds that it is very strange that the UN secretary general calls on the Arabs to make such a move, meaning reciprocal concessions. In view of his position and responsibilities, he is supposed to defend the implementation of UN resolutions and not the aggression or the occupation of the land of others.

AL-BA'TH says that those who mobilized hundreds of thousands of soldiers and used the most sophisticated weapons in the Gulf crisis to impose the implementation of the UN resolutions and international legitimacy have a responsibility to safeguard these values and principles without which there can be no international legitimacy. This international legitimacy will not enjoy credibility with the countries of the world and will not become entrenched unless it tackles issues with the same yardstick and away from double standards and bias.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying that the Arabs, particularly Syria, have unequivocally demonstrated that they love peace, that they are eager to attain it, and that they seriously seek all the means that lead to a just and comprehensive peace. In turn, others should substantiate their credibility and prove their concern for international legitimacy.

Al-Asad Ratifies Security Pact With Lebanon

JN0411170191 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic
1 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] Damascus (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday ratified bills approved by the People's Assembly raising public servants' salaries, pensions, and pension ceilings.

President Hafiz al-Asad also signed into law the bill approved by the People's Assembly on the conclusion of the security and defense pact between Syria and Lebanon.

Afghanistan

Nangarhar Units Repulse 'Extremist' Attacks

LD0711000991 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Dari 1330 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Armed forces units based in Nangarhar Province yesterday repulsed attacks by extremist groups and the Pakistani military in the area surrounding the province and subjected them to crushing blows. The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section reports that as a result of the retaliatory blows of the armed forces, the extremists, the Pakistani military, and Arab mercenaries suffered heavy losses. Two armored vehicles, three sets of BM-12 rockets, one SAKR-30 missile launcher, one BM1, two pieces of artillery, two 120-mm mortars, four vehicles carrying arms and ammunition, two arms and ammunition depots, and several extremist positions and hideouts were destroyed.

Extremist centers and firing positions in Paktia Province yesterday came under the crushing blows of the armed forces based in the province. BAKHTAR's military section reports that as a result of the retaliatory blows of the armed forces, a number of the extremists were crushed and one BM12 and two vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition were destroyed.

Rebels To Leave for Moscow by 'End of Week'

BK0611130091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1228 GMT
6 Nov 91

{Text} Islamabad, Nov 6 (AFP)—A delegation of Afghan mujahedin rebels will leave for Moscow before the end of the week for talks on ending the civil war in their homeland, the rebel-run MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] news agency reported here Wednesday.

According to MIDIA, the delegation will leave for the Soviet Union on Friday or Saturday after a press conference by Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the Jamyat-e Eslami, a moderate group that is one of the seven Sunni Muslim groups based in Pakistan.

The delegation, which will include Shi'ite Muslim representatives, will visit Saudi Arabia on its way to Moscow, a source said.

The departure of the mujahedin leaders has already been delayed several times and the composition of the delegation has not yet been finalized, according to a U.N. source here.

Three fundamentalist groups—the two factions of Hezbe Eslami led by Gulboddin Hekmatyar and Yunis Khalis and the Etehad-e Eslami of Rasul Sayyaf—have already said they would boycott the talks, the first with Moscow since the start of the Afghan conflict in 1979. The Soviet Union is seeking the return of their soldiers still held by the mujahedin after the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan in 1989. Officially more than 300 Soviet

soldiers are missing but the mujahedin are thought to be holding between 50 and 100.

The mujahedin, which has rejected any dialogue with the communist government in Kabul, hopes to promote itself as the main negotiator with Moscow in any talks on a political settlement for Afghanistan under United Nations auspices.

Benon Sevan, personal envoy of the U.N. secretary-general on Afghanistan, spent 48 hours in Peshawar, the rebel base here, following his visit to Kabul last week.

The U.N. has proposed talks to work out a transitional mechanism—a form of interim government—ahead of elections and a return to peace, but fighting has continued around the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad.

Afghan guerrillas have failed so far in their attempts to overthrow the government of President Najibullah by force.

The meeting in Moscow comes several days after an assassination attempt on former Afghan King Zaher Shah. The king, currently in exile in Rome, has been named as a possible participant in a government following a peace settlement.

To Meet With USSR's Pankin

BK0611162591 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 1600 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] An 11-member Afghan mujahedin delegation led by Mr. Burhanuddin Rabbani will be leaving Islamabad on Friday [8 November] for Jiddah on way to Moscow for talks with Soviet leaders.

A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad said the delegation would have discussions with the Soviet foreign minister, Mr. Boris Pankin, the foreign minister of Russian Republic, and other senior officials. Duration of the delegation's stay in the Soviet Union is still undecided.

Official Meets With Soviet Delegation Head

LD2910090791 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Excerpt] The prime minister's press office reports that Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Samad Salim, candidate academician engineer, met this afternoon with Aleksandr Ivanovich Kachanov, first deputy minister of foreign economic relations of the Soviet Union and acting minister in this capacity. The deputy prime minister talked about expansion of economic and trade cooperation, the development of cooperation in the private sector, the removal of goods transit problems, and quarantine issues between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. He also discussed the revival and reconstruction of projects in the Republic of Afghanistan built with the cooperation of the Soviet Union, and about the Soviet Union's assistance to the Republic of

Afghanistan for 1991 and future years. Sultan Husayn, first deputy planning minister, and Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union to Kabul, were also present.

According to another report, Ghulam Muhayuddin Shahbaz, minister of planning, met today in his office with Aleksandr Ivanovich Kachanov, first deputy minister of foreign economic relations of the Soviet Union and acting minister in this capacity. During this meeting, which was attended by a number of leadership members of that ministry and Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union to Kabul, talks were held on economic, trade, and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Aleksandr Ivanovich Kachanov arrived in Kabul today as head of a delegation within the 10th periodical session of the Afghan-Soviet permanent commission on economic and technical cooperation. The session will be held this year in Kabul. [passage omitted]

PRC Delegation Visits, Discusses Projects

LD0411103791 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0445 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 3, BAKHTAR—Eng. [engineer] Mir 'Abdul Ghafur Rahim, minister of water and electricity, met in his office the technical delegation of the People's Republic of China today, reports a BAKHTAR correspondent.

During this meeting, while the first secretary of the Embassy of China to Kabul was also present, the sides discussed issues related to economic and technical cooperation of China in construction of hydro-electric projects in the Republic of Afghanistan.

The Chinese delegation promised all-sided cooperation for the rehabilitation and building of irrigation projects, particularly the Parvan irrigation complex.

Security Ministry Buys Missiles From Opposition

LD0611234991 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] The organs of the Ministry of State Security today purchased 80 surface-to-surface missiles from the armed groups associated with the Gulbuddin extremist group around Vardak Province.

The military section of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports that the purchase price of these missiles was paid to the other side in accordance with a decree.

Bangladesh

Prime Minister Departs for Colombo 6 Nov

BK0611161791 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network
in English 1530 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia left Dhaka this afternoon on a two-day state visit to Sri Lanka at the invitation of President Ranasinghe Premadasa. During her stay in Sri Lanka, the prime minister will have bilateral talks with the president of Sri Lanka and other leaders. She is also expected to have talks with President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives and Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif, who have also arrived in Colombo at the invitation of President Premadasa.

According to a report, the leaders of Bangladesh, the Maldives, and Pakistan are visiting Sri Lanka as a goodwill gesture in view of the elaborate arrangements made by President Premadasa for the [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit. They will hold bilateral talks on issues of common concern.

Anti-Corruption Bureau Charges Ershad, Others

BK0611162191 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network
in English 1530 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] The anti-corruption bureau has submitted a chargesheet against six persons, including former President Ershad and former Industries Secretary Musharaf Hussain. An official handout says they were chargesheeted for the abuse of power in exempting about 35 lakh taka in favor of a farm by influencing Bangladesh Shilpa [Industrial] Bank.

In two separate cases, former Minister Ziauddin Ahmad was granted bail today for six months by a high court division. A former minister and mayor of Dhaka municipal corporation, Abdul Malik, has also been granted an ad interim bail.

India

State Denies Role in SAARC Summit Postponement

BK0711034091 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, has said that the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, canceled his visit to Colombo only after receiving a communication from the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] chairman, President Gayoom of the Maldives.

Talking to newsmen in Colombo, Mr. Faleiro categorically denied any Indian hand in the cancellation of the summit. The External Affairs Ministry spokesman had stated in New Delhi yesterday that Mr. Narasimha Rao received a message from President Gayoom which said the summit cannot be held as scheduled. President Gayoom said he had come to this conclusion after

extensive consultations among SAARC member countries in view of the inability of the king of Bhutan to attend the summit because of domestic preoccupations.

Two Sri Lankan Tamils Arrested in Tamil Nadu

*BK0711040291 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 7 Nov 91*

[Text] The Tamil Nadu police have arrested two Sri Lankan Tamils, including a close female associate of Sivarasan, in connection with the killing of EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] Leader K. Padmanabha and 14 others in the state last year. The two were detenus [detainees] in special camps for unregistered Sri Lankan Tamils in the state. They were picked up on the basis of information given by an LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militant arrested in connection with the killings of Rajiv Gandhi and Padmanabha.

'Further Relaxation' in Import Controls Announced

*BK0711095491 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 7 Nov 91*

[Text] The government today announced further relaxation in import restrictions. Inaugurating the economic editors conference in New Delhi, the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, said to begin with 20-percent disinvestment in profit-making public sector undertakings will be taken up soon. He said priority will be given for streamlining agricultural credit policy for effectively pursuing the ongoing economic reforms. Dr. Singh said efforts will now be made for securing direct foreign investment rather than credit capital in view of the restoration of the international confidence in the Indian economy. He said he has convened a meeting of Crop bank and Nabard [National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development] officials next month to revamp the agricultural credit policy. The finance minister, however, ruled out introduction of fresh agricultural tax. Dr. Singh said a broad national consensus is required to tackle the financial crisis facing the country.

In reply to a question, he said there is no question of reducing the defense expenditure for foreign aid. He declared that the foreign exchange is meant only to support our reserves and not subsidize export programs. He reiterated the government's commitments to safeguard the interests of the weaker sections while implementing hard economic decisions.

Commentary Views Missile Systems Research

*BK0611141091 Delhi All India Radio General
Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 6 Nov 91*

[Wing Commander Amar Rishi commentary]

[Text] Over 1,000 of India's best brains are working quietly but at breakneck speed to create a new generation of guided weapons that will place India on a par with the most advanced missile powers in the world. The country which has indigenous design capability is the winner,

says Dr. Abul Kalam, the chief of India's missile research center. But our effort is not just to start the project but to complete them and win the race for the country.

It all started with the launching of the integrated missile development program in 1983. The first flight of [surface-to-air missile] Trishul was carried out in September 1985. So far 19 flight tests have been carried out, the latest of them between August the 24th to September the 10th somewhere in east India, which have established the deadly capacity of Trishul. Trishul is a low-level, quick-action, surface-to-air missile with the range of 500 meters to 9 km. It has a single solid fuel propellant rocket with the dual thrust system—that is, booster and propulsion stages housed in one unit. You fire a missile from a launching pad on which is mounted its command guidance radar system. It has a warhead with a strike radius of 30 meters, set off not on impact but prior through what is called a reaction proximity fuse with an accuracy of 5.7 meters. It has only a 15-percent import content, to be reduced to six percent by the time production starts.

The surface-to-air missile has been developed for all the three services. That is why it is called Trishul, the mighty weapon of Lord Shiva and the logo of IAF's [Indian Air Force] strike arm—the Western Air Command. The Army and the Air Force will use it against low-flying aircraft, while the Navy will use a modified version against sea-skimming missiles like the French Exocet and the American Harpoon.

Once an enemy aircraft is identified and located by the surveillance radar, the second radar will take over and start tracking the target. The moment the enemy's aircraft is within the range, the missile will be launched on the line of tracking beam and guide all the way to the target. The only difference between the Air Force and the Army version of launch will be that while the Air Force system will be mounted on a wheeled vehicle, the Army system will be on a tracked vehicle. In the naval system, the missile will operate through a height-locked loop especially designed to keep the missile above the level of the water at a constant predetermined height. We can increase the range of the missile since we have the technology to match it with the Exocet and Harpoon missiles.

The integrated missile development project comprises at the moment five missiles. First, the Nag, a third-generation fire-and-forget antitank guided missile with a range of four km.

Then there is Prithvi, surface-to-surface tactical missile with a range of 150 km. If we reduce the warhead load below one ton, it can go longer. It can be used against [words indistinct] assault to destroy a dam or an airbus. It can deliver as much explosive as four Jaguars can without endangering the aircraft or the pilot. It is expected to cost 12.5 million rupees compared to 125 million rupees, the cost of a Jaguar. But what a bomber is capable of achieving, Prithvi just cannot do all that.

The fourth [as heard] in the series, the Akash missile, is a medium-range, surface-to-air missile with the maximum range of 25 km.

We finally come to Agni, the intermediate-range ballistic missile with a range of 1,200 to 2,000 km. The successful test launch of Agni evoked a lot of worldwide attention. We are likely to conduct a second test launch. The Agni once operational will deter any such aggressive designs.

India's scientists, soldiers, sea and airmen are next to none. Give them the task and the resources to achieve it, they will always live up to the country's expectations. Give them the means and they will reach even the moon quicker than any other nation has done so far.

Iran

Khamene'i Says Arabs Should Reject Madrid Talks

LD0611144291 Tehran IRNA in English 1334 GMT
6 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 6, IRNA—Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i today called on Arab governments to make good on their wrongdoings in the Madrid conference by announcing to the world that negotiations held there were null and void because of Israel's outrageous behavior. The leader of the Islamic revolution also urged the Arab governments to announce that they would not recognize the Zionist regime.

"The usurper and false regime of Israel, having wished such an incident to happen for the past 40 years, left the conference after uttering the harshest and most outrageous words before Arabs. Why did Arabs lay down their arms in the face of such a plot and deceit? What answer will history give them and what will Arab nations tell them?" the leader questioned in his speech to a group of school and college students.

Having witnessed the miraculous acts of the pious youths trained by revolutionary Islam, global arrogance now tried to keep such a great human wave away from the U.S. through implementation of anti-Islamic plots, the revered ayatollah pointed out.

Commentary Previews Meeting of Arab States

LD0711100291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran in English 1930 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Unattributed commentary: "Forthcoming Meeting of the Nine Arab States"]

[Text] In the wake of an agreement between Egypt and Syria on convening a meeting of nine Arab states, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will leave for Damascus shortly. This visit has been related to forging coordination on the issues to be discussed in the next round of the so-called Middle East peace parleys, is significant due to the present sensitive (?juncture). The session, to be attended by Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia,

Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, the UAE [United Arab Emirates], Libya, and Palestinian representatives, is expected to discuss ways of backing the basic demands of Arabs in the future talks at the peace conference.

In the midst [as heard], political experts too believe that at their future session the Arabs will assess their weak and strong points prior to the next round of talks with Israel and exchange views over the time and place of the next peace conference in advance of the ninth trip of the U.S. secretary of state, James Baker, to the region. This is at the time when the first round of the Arab-Israeli parleys ended without any agreement between the sides involved in the Middle East conference over the time and place of the next session.

While the Israeli team propose Beyt ol-Moqaddas [Jerusalem] as Arab capital on a rotating basis as the venue for the future talks, the Arab teams opposed it. Syria and Lebanon favored Madrid for the continuation of the talks, whereas the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegations suggested a neutral site for such parleys. However, in the opinion of political experts, the Arabs are virtually unanimous over Washington as the venue of the future talks. This is because the weak and vain posture of the Soviets in the U.S.-dominated Madrid conference and also the United States' being the only major force on the scene of the so-called diplomacy of peace have brought the Arabs, in their bid to regain their lands, around Washington and its backing, in the face of Israel.

The Zionist regime's insistence on the convening of the next round of the peace conference in the Middle East is worth attention in its attempt to secure legitimacy in the sensitive Middle East region. This is in view of the fact that the Zionist regime's presence for talks in the occupied Beyt ol-Moqaddas, and also in the Arab capitals, would be tantamount to according recognition to it in the Islamic lands.

The Arab leaders fully know that the world public opinion will not accept such a presence, and it will only intensify the popular unrest and opposition. In the meantime, the statement of the Israeli prime minister, Itzhak Shamir, calling for the cessation of the intifadah activities and continued construction of the Jewish settlements confirms Tel Aviv's fear from furtherance of the popular uprising. These comments denounce the Zionist policy of securing concession from the Arabs.

At any rate, it is quite evident right now that even if the future run of the peace conference leads to an agreement, it will not mean any guarantees for the security of the occupied [as heard] and lack of sensitivity of the public opinion in the Islamic world.

Amrohalli Denies Trying To Produce Nuclear Arms

LD0611175891 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT
6 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 6, IRNA—Vice-president and head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization Reza

Amrollahi today dismissed as "sheer lies" the allegations raised by some quarters particularly the United States that Iran was trying to produce nuclear arms.

"Iran is not after nuclear arms. On the contrary it believes that such lethal arms in the region should be destroyed," he told a press conference, reiterating "we are ready for any type of cooperation for establishing a region free of mass-destruction weapons."

In fact, Amrollahi pointed out, the objective behind the feverish U.S. propaganda on Iran's nuclear potential, is to distract attention from the so-called Middle East conference that is flopping in Madrid. "The Islamic Republic is the butt of this propaganda tirade because it (successfully) hosted the international conference in support of the Islamic revolution of Palestine," he added.

Amrollahi recalled Tehran's repeated warnings during the Iraqi invasion of Iran and the Israeli air raid on Iraq's nuclear installations, that dangerous nuclear activities were underway in the region. "However, nobody paid any attention," he said.

"Nine times during the imposed war, our nuclear power plant in Bushehr was bombarded by the Iraqis, but regrettably no country, not even the United Nations or the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) protested to Iraq," said Iran's atomic energy chief.

He asked: Was not Iran victim of the destructive use of advance technology during the 8-year war, including the U.S. Navy's missing down of its passenger plane?

"Now, it (Iran) is being subjected to renewed pressures and threats from those who possess nuclear arms such as Israel" complained Amrollahi. The Zionist regime, he said, began producing nuclear arms 20 years ago, and the 300 nuclear warheads in its arsenal of ballistic missiles is a potential threat to the whole Middle East region.

Amrollahi questioned the covert 10-billion-dollar U.S. financing of the Zionist production and use of the atomic bomb, as well as direct and indirect aid to three atomic research centers in Israel.

He quoted U.N. officials as saying that the U.S. even ignored certain regulations when providing Iraq with destructive atomic technology capable of producing nuclear arms.

"However, Iran, as a member of the IAEA is committed to the regulations for the inspections of the nuclear installations, and naturally respects them," said Amrollahi.

Iran is determined to exploit atomic energy and technology in peaceful ways for its growing electricity, agricultural, industrial and medical needs, he made it clear. "If we do not use the current generation of nuclear power

plants, we will not be able at all to use the next generation of these plants," noted the vice-president.

At the moment, he disclosed, Iran is holding talks with Germany for completion of the Bushehr plant, while some other countries have also given positive response to Iran's request for setting up another nuclear energy development plant. "Iran has been after completion of the Bushehr plant, and in view of the power shortage, there is no other way for removing the current power cuts," he said. According to Amrollahi, almost 80 percent work has been completed at the Bushehr plant, and the U.S. propaganda ballyhoo in this regard is intended to deprive a country of its "indisputable right."

He welcomed cooperation from other countries "of course, excluding the United States and Israel", for the peaceful use of the nuclear energy. China's cooperation in this regard is within the framework of the regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency, he added.

Towards the end of his press conference, Amrollahi repeated the call for regional nuclear disarmament, and urged U.N. investigators to inspect the nuclear installations in Israel, and to publish the report on Washington's nuclear assistance to the Zionist regime and Iraq.

U.S. Accusations on Nuclear Arms Termed 'Lies'

LD0611234491 Tehran IRNA in English 0849 GMT
6 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 6, IRNA—A morning daily here Wednesday stressed that Western propaganda accusing Iran of trying to get access to nuclear arms is part of a plot against Third World countries which strive to preserve their independence.

"ABRAR" in its editorial titled "The Big Lie" wrote: "Such a fuss is being made at a time when Iran as the sole defender of the rights of the oppressed Palestinian people, has stood against U.S. policies aimed at stabilizing the Zionist regime."

It was quite clear that the U.S. would launch a conspiracy against Iran to pressure Tehran to at least remain silent vis-a-vis developments which are taking shape in the region upon the U.S. will, the article noted.

"The U.S. lies about Iran are aimed at blocking Iran's economic and technical cooperation with other countries especially when Tehran and Beijing are paving the way for an expanded cooperation in Asia," the daily added.

This new U.S. scheme would only satisfy Washington's statesmen who imagine that such fabrications would cause the nuclear arms produced by the Zionist regime be concealed, ABRAR concluded.